

Files of Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Box 2: Books and Files
Archived from OEOP 100 by Allyson Lambert on September 15, 2000

- Commemorative Album of luncheon honoring The First Lady's Staff: September 10, 1997
- Commemorative Album for trip to Bangladesh given by Ambassador Humayun Kabin: April 1995
- Commemorative Album to honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's videotaped remarks for the cultural symposium 'Islam and the West' at the 11th Festival for Heritage and Culture in Riyadh: March 1996
- Commemorative Album covering the activities of the President and the First lady in Bangkok to the Kingdom of Thailand from Ambassador William H. Itoh: December 27, 1996
- Commemorative Album for the National Council of Women in the Philippines and CSFU 'Women's Forum' "Women's Action Towards Asia-Pacific Networking": November 24, 1996
- Pamphlet on the First Lady's and Secretary of State's Madeline Albright's visit to the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San Jose-Costa Rica: May 8, 1997

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

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Thank you from
Bangladesh

To
First Lady
Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton
and
Miss Chelsea Clinton

With deep regards

HUMAYUN KABIR
Ambassador

**EMBASSY OF
BANGLADESH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESENTATION

He Greets President

Mr. President,

It is a long way for me to come from the villages of Bangladesh to the capital city of Washington. I take pride in doing so, as our villages represent more authentically the soul of Bangladesh. Yet, as I traverse this long distance from muddy roads to super-highways to take up my assignment as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States of America, I am amazed how our two countries and peoples share identical ideals, goals and aspirations.

I consider it a particular distinction to be given the opportunity to serve my country as its Ambassador to your great country.

Clinton to Kabir of Bangladesh



President Bill Clinton greets Mr. Humayun Kabir, new Bangladesh Ambassador to the U.S. at the White House

There was sadness in his eyes. The poor of America blended in a tragic mosaic with the poor in Bangladesh suddenly this spring, so poignantly bridged by an American lady called Mrs. Hillary Clinton stomping through the dusty roads of Mohishkhali - a distant village of remote but determined Bangladesh, as alive as Little Rock of Arkansas.

[Extract from an article : *SUDDENLY THIS SPRING: U.S.A. AT CROSSROADS*, by Mizanur Rahman Shelley]

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Weekly Bichitra
April 12, 1995

বিচিত্রা

নববর্ষ সুখ্যা

হিলারি ও চেলসি
গ্রামীণ চেককে
বিশ্ব ফ্যাশনে
নিয়ে গেলেন

বিশেষ আকর্ষণ
দুটি উপন্যাসিকা

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Daily Ittefaq
April 4, 1995



মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন গতকাল ঢাকায় মার্কিন রাষ্ট্রদূতের বাসভবনে এক চা চক্র অনুষ্ঠানে বাংলাদেশে নারী উন্নয়নের সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশিষ্ট মহিলা নেতৃবৃন্দের সহিত মত বিনিময় করেন

‘হিলারী, আপনি কি স্বামীর উপর নির্ভরশীল?’

কটনৈতিক রিপোর্টার ॥ গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক ধর্মীপাড়া প্রকল্পের সদস্যদের সাথে একান্ত আলাপচারিতায় মাত্রিয়াছিলেন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন।
(শেষ পৃ: ৩-এর ক: হ্র:)

হিলারী আপনি

(১ম পৃ: পর)

সভাস্থে সদস্যদের জিজ্ঞাসার সকল প্রশ্নের জবাব দেন হিলারী। একজন প্রশ্ন করেন একটিনাত্র নেয়ে তাহার। আর কোন বাচ্চা নিবেন কিনা। হিলারী বলেন, আরও এক/দুইটি বাচ্চা নেওয়ার পরিকল্পনা ছিল। কিন্তু পরে আমি ও আমার স্বামী উহা পরিত্যাগ করিয়াছি। কারণ আমাদের একমাত্র কন্যা চেলসিকে নিয়ে আমরা গর্বিত। গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের সদস্য মহিলারা সকলেই নিজেরা রোজগার করেন। তাই একজন হিলারীকে প্রশ্ন করেন: আপা আপনি কি নিজে রোজগার করেন? না, স্বামীর উপর নির্ভরশীল? উত্তরে হিলারী বলেন: আমি ১৩ বছর বয়স হইতে রোজগার শুরু করিয়াছি। এক সময় আমি আমার স্বামীর চাইতেও বেশী রোজগার করিতাম (আইনজীবী হিসাবে)। এখন আমার স্বামী প্রেসিডেন্ট, তাই আমি আয় করিনা। ভবিষ্যতে নিশ্চয়ই আবার রোজগার করিব। প্রেসিডেন্ট ক্রিনটনকে কেন নিয়া আসিলেন না এই প্রশ্নের জবাবে হিলারী বলিলেন: ভবিষ্যতে তিনি নিশ্চয় আসিবেন। এখন



মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন গতকাল বিনাইদহ জেলার মশিহাটি গ্রামে গ্রামীণ সদস্যদের সহিত কথা বলেন। পাশ্বে তাহার কন্যা চেলসিয়া ও গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পা



প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগের সচিব কাজী রকিব উদ্দিন আহমেদ (মাঝে) গতকাল প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটনকে শিক্ষার বিনিময়ে খা

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Daily Ittefaq

April 4, 1995

‘শিক্ষার জন্য খাদ্য কর্মসূচী পল্লী
অঞ্চলে শিক্ষা বিস্তারে
সহায়ক হইবে’

‘আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে এনজিও
এবং সরকারের সহযোগিতা
প্রশংসনীয়’

‘প্রতিবেশীর সঙ্গে আলোচনার
মাধ্যমে পানি সমস্যার
সমাধান করুন’

যাহা দেখিয়াছি, তাহাতে আমি মুগ্ধঃ হিলারী



বাসস ॥ যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের সফররত ফার্স্ট লেডী মিসেস হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটন বাংলাদেশের শিক্ষার জন্য খাদ্য কর্মসূচীর ভূয়সী প্রশংসা করিয়াছেন। তিনি ইহাকে অনন্য উদ্যোগ বলিয়া আখ্যায়িত করিয়াছেন। গতকাল সোমবার কয়েকটি আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প পরিদর্শন শেষে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়ার কাছে তাহার অভিজ্ঞতা বর্ণনাকালে মিসেস হিলারী ক্রিনটন বলেন, “এমন চমৎকার কর্মসূচী বিশ্বের আর কোথাও আছে কি-না আমি জানি না।” গতরাতে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া তাহার ৩০ নম্বর হেয়ার রোডের কার্যালয়ে মিসেস ক্রিনটনের সম্মানে এক নৈশ ভোজের আয়োজন করেন। এই ভোজের অত্যাশ্চর্য আগেই প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে মিসেস ক্রিনটনের সাক্ষাৎ ও আলাপ হয়। নৈশভোজে যোগদানের জন্য কন্যা চেলসিয়াকে সঙ্গে লইয়া সন্ধ্যা ৬ঃ ৪৫ মিনিটে হেয়ার রোডের কার্যালয়ে পৌঁছাইলে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম জিয়া মিসেস ক্রিনটনকে স্বাগত জানান। আলাপকালে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী বলেন, গতকাল তিনি ঢাকা ও যশোরে যাহা কিছু দেখিয়াছেন তাহাতে তিনি মুগ্ধ। তিনি শিক্ষার জন্য খাদ্য কর্মসূচীর ব্যাপারে বিশেষ আগ্রহ প্রদর্শন করেন এবং বলেন, ইহা পৃথী অঞ্চলের জনগণের মধ্যে শিক্ষা বিস্তারে সহায়ক হইবে। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী সরকার ও এনজিওদের মধ্যে বর্তমান সহযোগিতার সম্পর্কের প্রশংসা (৭ম পৃঃ)

গতকাল হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্রিনটনের সম্মানে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া কর্তৃক তাহার হেয়ার রোড কার্যালয়ে আয়োজিত নৈশভোজের প্রাক্কালে মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী ও প্রধানমন্ত্রী আলাপ করেন



হিলারিকে জামদানি শাড়ি পরিয়ে দিচ্ছে মাজেন্দা বেগম ও রীনা

‘আমাদের টার্গেট বিলিয়ন ডলারের বিশ্ববাজার’

দেশের তাঁত শিল্পকে পুনরুজ্জীবিত করতেই উদ্যোগ নেয় গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক। ১৯৯৩ সালের জুলাই মাসে গ্রামীণ উদ্যোগ নামে তিন সংস্থা গঠন করে শুরু হয় দেশের বিভিন্ন এলাকার তাঁত ও তাঁতীদের সহযোগিতা করা। সিরাজগঞ্জ ও নারায়ণগঞ্জের ৬ হাজার তাঁতী এখন গ্রাম আড়াই’শ ধরনের চেক উৎপাদন করতে পারছে গ্রামীণ উদ্যোগের কারণে। যার মোট উৎপাদন ক্ষমতা প্রতি মাসে প্রায় ৬ লাখ গজ। এ বছরেরই জুন নাগাদ উৎপাদন প্রতি মাসে ১০ লাখে উন্নীত হবে বলে জানালেন গ্রামীণ উদ্যোগের ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর খালেদ শামসু’তবে এই উৎপাদনও আমাদের ক্ষমতার সামান্য ব্যবহার।’

সরকারী হিসেব অনুযায়ী, দেশে প্রায় ৫ লক্ষ তাঁত এবং ১০ লক্ষ তাঁতী আছে। গ্রামীণ উদ্যোগ ব্যবহার করছে এদের মাত্র ১ শতাংশকে। অর্থাৎ ৫ লক্ষ তাঁতে বছরে উৎপাদিত হতে পারে ২৫ কোটি গজ চেক। যা থেকে বছরে কমপক্ষে ২৫ কোটি ডলার আয় হতে পারে দেশে। এই বিশাল আশাবাদ নিয়েই শুরু হয়েছে গ্রামীণ চেকের। প্রথমে আশাবাদ সাদা না জাগলেও ‘গ্রামীণ চেক’ নামটা এখন এসে গেছে নাগরিক সচেতনতায়।

‘খুব কম সময়ের মধ্যেই দেশের অর্থনীতিতে বিশাল পরিবর্তন নিয়ে আসতে পারে গ্রামীণ চেক, যদি সরকারী সাপোর্ট পাওয়া যায়’ বলেন খালেদ শামসু। তার মতে, সরকারী পর্যায়ে তাঁত বস্ত্র প্রচলনের পাশাপাশি সরকার যদি বছরে একশ’ জন তাঁতীকে তাদের সৃষ্টিকর্মের জন্য পুরস্কারের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেন তবেই এক্ষেত্রে যথেষ্ট আলোড়ন সৃষ্টি হবে। তিনি জানান, এখানে সমস্যা সূতোর। একমাত্র পদ্মা টেক্সটাইল ছাড়া আর কোন সূতো উৎপাদনকারীই আমাদের সঙ্গে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী চুক্তিতে আসতে রাজি হয়নি।

কিন্তু বাজারে গ্রামীণ চেকের অন্তর্ভুক্তি, বাজার সন্ধান ও সরবরাহের ব্যাপারে গ্রামীণ উদ্যোগের ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর খালেদ শামসু বলেন ‘আমাদের টার্গেট বিশ্বের আড়াই’শ’ বিলিয়ন ডলারের কাপড়ের বাজার। সে লক্ষ্যে আমরা দেশ-বিদেশের ফ্যাশন ডিজাইনারদের আমন্ত্রণ জানাতে পারি গ্রামীণ চেক ব্যবহার করে ডিজাইন করার জন্য। তবে আমরা শুধুই উৎপাদক, বিশেষ গ্রামীণ চেকের ব্যবসা করতে এখন এগিয়ে আসতে হবে ব্যবসায়ীদেরই। তারা বিদেশে দেশী কাপড়ের জন্য প্রচারণায় নামতে পারেন ব্যবসায়িক স্বার্থে। গ্যামেটস উৎপাদনকারী দেশীয় বস্ত্রের ব্যাপারে তাদের বায়বায়নের কনভিন্সড করতে পারেন। আমরা এই চেকের মানের ব্যাপারে আশাবাদী। যে কোন নকশা, টেকচার এই চেকে করা সম্ভব।’

এদেশের মানুষ, গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক ও গ্রামীণ চেক মুগ্ধ হয়েই নিজ দেশে গিয়েছেন। এখন আমাদেরকেও আত্মবিশ্বাসী হতে হবে নিজেদের সাকল্যে।’

পাদটিকা

হিলারি ক্রিন্টনের যশোর সফর শেষে ডঃ ইউনুস ঢাকা ফিরছিলেন মার্কিন সাংবাদিক দলটির সঙ্গে। বিমানের ভেতর একজন মহিলা সাংবাদিক ডঃ ইউনুসকে ফিস্ফিস করে জিজ্ঞেস করলেন ‘তোমাদের কি পরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যয় হলো ফার্স্টলেডিকে ড্রেস উপহার দিতে?’

ডঃ ইউনুস হেসে বললেন, শুধু ফার্স্টলেডী নয়, এমনকি চেলসির ড্রেস নিয়েও আমাদের খরচ ৬ ডলার ক্রস করেনি।

অবাক হলেন মহিলা, জিজ্ঞেস করলেন, ‘কিভাবে?’

—ড্রেস দু’টো তৈরিতে কাপড় লেগেছে ৬ গজ। প্রতি গজ ১ ডলার করেই ধর।

মার্কিন সাংবাদিক দলটির কয়েকজন সে রাতেই গ্রামীণ ব্যাংকের মিরপুর অফিস থেকে যোগাড় করে নেন গ্রামীণ চেক।

আর মাত্র তিনশ’ টাকার গ্রামীণ চেকের ড্রেসটিই বোধহয় হিলারির এ যাবৎ প্রাপ্ত ও পরিহিত সর্বনিম্ন দামের কোন উপহার।

Daily Star
April 1, 1995



US First Lady Hillary Clinton (L) and daughter Chelsea (partly hidden 2nd L) is welcomed by Nepalese Queen Aishwarya (front C) and daughter Princess Shruti (back 2nd R) at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu yesterday.
— AFP/UNB photo

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Hillary Clinton arrives tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of US President Bill Clinton, is due to arrive tomorrow afternoon on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Accompanied by her 15-year old daughter Chelsea, the entourage of the visiting dignitary will comprise of nearly 60 members including a 20-member media-team.

A high-powered advance team that also includes a special detail from the FBI is already in the city to co-ordinate her visit.

After her arrival tomorrow, Hillary Clinton will pay a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban.

The US Embassy will hold a reception in her honour where very selected guests have been invited.

The invitees also include leading politicians from the

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Hillary due tomorrow

From Page 1

government and opposition parties, top civil and military officials, intellectuals and other community leaders.

On Monday, Hillary will fly to Jessore in the morning where she will see the workings of the 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 on the same afternoon.

Invitations have already been sent out to around 25 distinguished women in different fields, including those engaged in social and community service and NGO affairs.

The visiting dignitary will meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Hare Road office. She will also be hosted to a dinner by the Prime Minister.

Hillary Clinton will visit the ICDDR,B on April 4 at ten in the morning. Later in the afternoon, she will leave for Colombo on her last-leg of 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 fourthleg of a five-nation South Asian tour. But what actually influenced her to make her present itinerary is her and President Clinton's personal interest in the 'rural revolution' initiated by Prof. Yunus' Grameen Bank.

Informed sources said, she tied up her visits to other South Asian countries, keeping the Grameen Bank and Bangladesh in focus.

The ties between the US President's family and the Grameen Bank span over for more than a decade. In the mid-eighties, Clinton as Gov-

ernor of Arkansas invited Prof. Yunus to initiate a Grameen Bank Project called "Good Hope Fund" in Little Rock.

Later, several other projects were taken up in many other countries including the US.

Last year, Prof Yunus had been invited to an exclusive audience with President Clinton.

A few months back he met Hillary Clinton at the White House and extended a personal invitation to her to visit Bangladesh.

The White House decided to take special advantage of Hillary's trip to the region after President Clinton said that the US has given inadequate attention in the recent years to South Asia.

So, Hillary's visit may not bear an official seal, yet it has all the trappings of a state visit that would warm up further US relations with South Asia, particularly Bangladesh.

Armed clash at Demra : 8 held

By DMCH Correspondent

One person received bullet injury during a clash between two rival groups near Zia Sarani in Demra area of the city yesterday noon.

The Demra police arrested eight persons in this connection.

The person who received bullet injury in his leg was identified as Nurul Alam, 25. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The armed groups exchanged several rounds of gunshots during the clash which began at noon.

Judicial probe

From Page 1

of the fertiliser crisis.

The Minister for Food, who is not a member of the standing committee but was present at the meeting, informed the PM that the price of rice was showing a downward trend.

In reply to a question the source, who is a cabinet minister, said that the meeting did not discuss anything about the case of Maj Gen Manzur's killing.

The meeting that started at 8:30 pm continued till 11 pm.

Hillary Clinton in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Mar 31: Communist demonstrators hurled black flags at Hillary Clinton, after she arrived in Nepal today for a three day visit, police said, reports AFP.

Before the incident, Clinton and her daughter Chelsea were taken to the "very very important persons" (VVIP) lounge at Tribhuvan International Airport by Queen Aishwarya and Princess Shruti at the start of the third leg of their four-nation South Asian tour.

She was given a lively welcome by Nepalese girls in traditional costume, and greeted by acting Deputy Premier Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, cabinet members, heads of foreign missions in Nepal and senior officials.

Clinton's visit is expected to help raise international awareness of underprivileged women and children. This has been a major theme of her South Asian tour.

Earlier 19 demonstrators were arrested in connection with the incident at the airport, police said. The flags scattered around Hillary and Chelsea, but neither was hurt.

Protestors from the communist United People's Front (UPF) were outside Kathmandu airport waving anti-US flags, and banners.

As Clinton waved to the crowd as she left the airport, the bundle of flags was hurled and police moved in to make the arrests, witnesses said.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Daily Star
April 1, 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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

April 2, 1995

Hillary lauds Bangladeshis for their resilience

Diplomatic Correspondent

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who arrived in Dhaka on Sunday afternoon on a three-day visit praised the people of Bangladesh as a model of "self-reliance and resilience."

Flying from Kathmandu on the fourth leg of her 12-day five-nation tour of South Asia, her first to this region, the US First Lady in her brief arrival statement said "It is a great privilege for me to visit Bangladesh which has much to teach the world."

Mrs. Clinton, an admirer of Prof. Muhammad Yunus, founder of the world acclaimed rural financial institution "Grameen Bank," in her statement at the airport said "I have long admired the determination and creativity of the Bangladeshi people." She added "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, a renowned lawyer of her country and known for

her penchant for social welfare activities, observed "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."

On her arrival by a special US plane that landed at the airport at 3-10 p.m. Mrs. Clinton was received by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and his wife. The US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N. Merrill and his wife were also present at the airport to greet the US first lady who is accompanied by her daughter Chelsea and a team of senior officials and US media.

From the airport, the US First Lady was driven by a special limousine, earlier flown from the United States, to Sonargaon hotel where she will stay for two nights before leaving for Colombo on Tuesday at the last leg of her current swing of five South Asian countries.

Two tiny tots presented bouquet to the US First Lady who was looking resplendent in a deep colour dress.

Hillary lauds

From Page 1 Col. 4

at the reception.

Among the Opposition leaders, Awami League Chief and the Former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami attended the reception hosted by the US First Lady.

Mrs. Clinton will have a busy day tomorrow (Monday) visiting some villages in the southern districts of Jessore and Jhenidah to see some of the development projects of the Grameen Bank and educational programmes run by BRAC, the leading NGO in the country.

On her return from Jessore in the afternoon, the US First Lady will attend a dinner to be hosted in her honour by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

On Tuesday Mrs. Clinton will visit the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), a unique research institute, only of its kind in the developing world working on diarrhoeal disease, cholera, nutrition, population control, sanitation and AIDS.

She will leave for Colombo on Tuesday at the last leg of her current South Asian tour, the first by a US First Lady in nearly two decades. Her five-nation goodwill trip started on March 24 that already took her to Pakistan, India and Nepal.

State Minister for Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were also present at the airport to welcome the US First Lady.

Her three-day sojourn reaffirms the growing interest of the US Administration in sustainable development in Bangladesh the US First Lady met President Abdur Rahman Biswas and will exchange views with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Mrs. Clinton expressed her desire to visit Bangladesh ever since she and President Bill Clinton met Prof. Muhammad Yunus and became impressed by the Grameen Bank model. A White House spokesman told the Press on her arrival in Dhaka that "Mrs. Clinton is very excited about her trip to Bangladesh."

The US First Lady, widely praised for her keen interest in human and democratic issues, held a reception at the US Embassy at Baidhara diplomatic enclave on Sunday evening where the invited leaders of the Government and the Opposition, representatives of leading NGOs, leaders of women organisations and human rights bodies, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and a number of her cabinet colleagues were present.

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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 Mashhat 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

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

April 2, 1995

Hasina exchanges greetings with Hillary

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-a-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 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 to Dhaka would be "pleasant and fruitful". She appealed for continued US aid and assistance to Bangladesh.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 1

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".

Leadership of Khaleda lauded

US First Lady Madame 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 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 accorded to her by the US Embassy in Dhaka on 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 eradication 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

See Page 10 Col. 5

Leadership

From Page 1 Col. 1

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 Raphael, political leaders, high civil and military officials, distinguished citizens of Bangladesh and diplomats were present at the reception.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

April 2, 1995

Hillary praises economic uplift of Bangladesh

Diplomatic Correspondent

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who left Dhaka on Tuesday morning at the end of her three-day visit to Bangladesh considered the successes she witnessed here in the fields of health care, education, economic development and population as "models for the rest of the world as well as reminders of the work that remains to be done."

In a brief written statement at the airport prior to her departure to Colombo, the last hop of her current 12-day five-nation swing of South Asia, the US First Lady asserted that the friendship between the United States and Bangladesh would remain strong and "I am confident it will become even more so in the years ahead."

Repeating the impression, she expressed in her arrival statement on Sunday where she praised Bangladesh people as model of "self-reliance and resilience", the US First Lady said "I leave deeply impressed with the strength and determination of the Bangladeshi people who are the pioneers in the fields of health care, education, economic development and population". In her departure statement winding up her three-day visit, the first by any US First Lady to Bangladesh, Mrs. Clinton asserted "the friendship between our nations remains strong and I am confident it will become even more so in the years ahead".

Expressing her thanks to the Government and the people for the "warm and generous hospitality" extended to her, the US First Lady accompanied by her daughter Chelsea and a team of senior officials, security men and US press corps, boarded the special aircraft of the US presidential fleet to fly to Sri Lanka at the last leg of her current South Asian tour. Referring to her talks with Government leaders, she observed "I owe special thanks to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for taking the time to exchange views on a range of issues of mutual interest to the United States and Bangladesh."

The US First Lady, widely acclaimed for her support to human and democratic issues also for her penchant for social welfare activities, exchanged views with Opposition leaders including Awami League

Chief and former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. She also held discussions exclusively with leading women figures in bureaucracy, education, business and social work.

During her three-day sojourn, the US First Lady flew to Jessore to witness the Grameen Bank projects, which she and President Bill Clinton already praised as success model to provide credit to rural people specially to village women who wish to establish small business for sustenance. In the remote villages there she visited Government's food for education programmes and took keen interest in the formal education programmes run by BRAC, one of the leading NGOs in the country.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman and Begum Rahman,

See Page 10 Col. 8

Hillary

From Page 1 Col. 7

State Minister for Women Affairs Sarwari Rahman, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, US Ambassador David N. Merrill, diplomats of the US embassy were present at the airport to see off the First Lady and her daughter. Wearing simple dresses, the mother and the daughter waved from the doorstep of the special aircraft.

Earlier before coming to the airport in a black bullet-proof limousine, specially flown from the United States for her use, the US First Lady visited the ICDDR,B, the internationally known research organisation working on diarrhoeal diseases, cholera, nutrition, population control and AIDS. She patted affectionately two tiny tots who presented her bouquets at the airport.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said the visit of the US First Lady was fruitful. Refuting the myth created by former US Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger who twenty years ago called Bangladesh as a "bottomless basket", the Foreign Secretary hoped that after the First Lady's visit "Bangladesh's projection in the USA will now be different". He asserted that Mrs. Clinton's visit "definitely strengthened US-Bangladesh relations".

Commenting on the visit of his country's First Lady, the US Ambassador David N. Merrill said that she was highly impressed by the programmes on poverty alleviation, food, population control, education and equal opportunities. He hoped that the visit of the First Lady would help the future programmes of US assistance to solve the long term issues on human resources development in Bangladesh.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

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.

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.

Hillary entered Wellesley College in 1965. Graduating with high honors, 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 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.

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.

In 1973, Hillary became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense 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.

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 Program 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, 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 Bangladesh Observer
April 3, 1995

Hillary lauds food for education programme

Visiting US First Lady Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton on 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," Ms Clinton said while narrating her experience to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia after visiting to a number of socio-economic development projects on Monday.

She had a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 30 Hare Road on Monday night just

before attending the dinner given in her honour by Begum Zia.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia welcomed Ms Clinton when she along with her daughter Chelsea reached at 6:45 p.m. 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 on Monday 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 up international rivers.

See Page 10 Col. 5

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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Hillary visits NGO projects in Jessore US to give aid for spread of female education

PANCHBARIA (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 the school. 244 enjoy the bene-

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 8 col. 1



US First Lady Hillary Clinton in a Jamdani saree presented to her by the women members of the Grameen Bank during her visit of Grameen Bank projects at village Mashihati in Jhenidah district on Monday.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

US to give aid for spread

Contd. from page 1

able 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 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. 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 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. 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 "Kutchha" 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, Mallur 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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

April 3, 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.

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of the stalls tiny tots received her singing Gambhira, Jari and other folk songs reflecting the cultural heritage of rural Bangladesh.

Visits BRAC school

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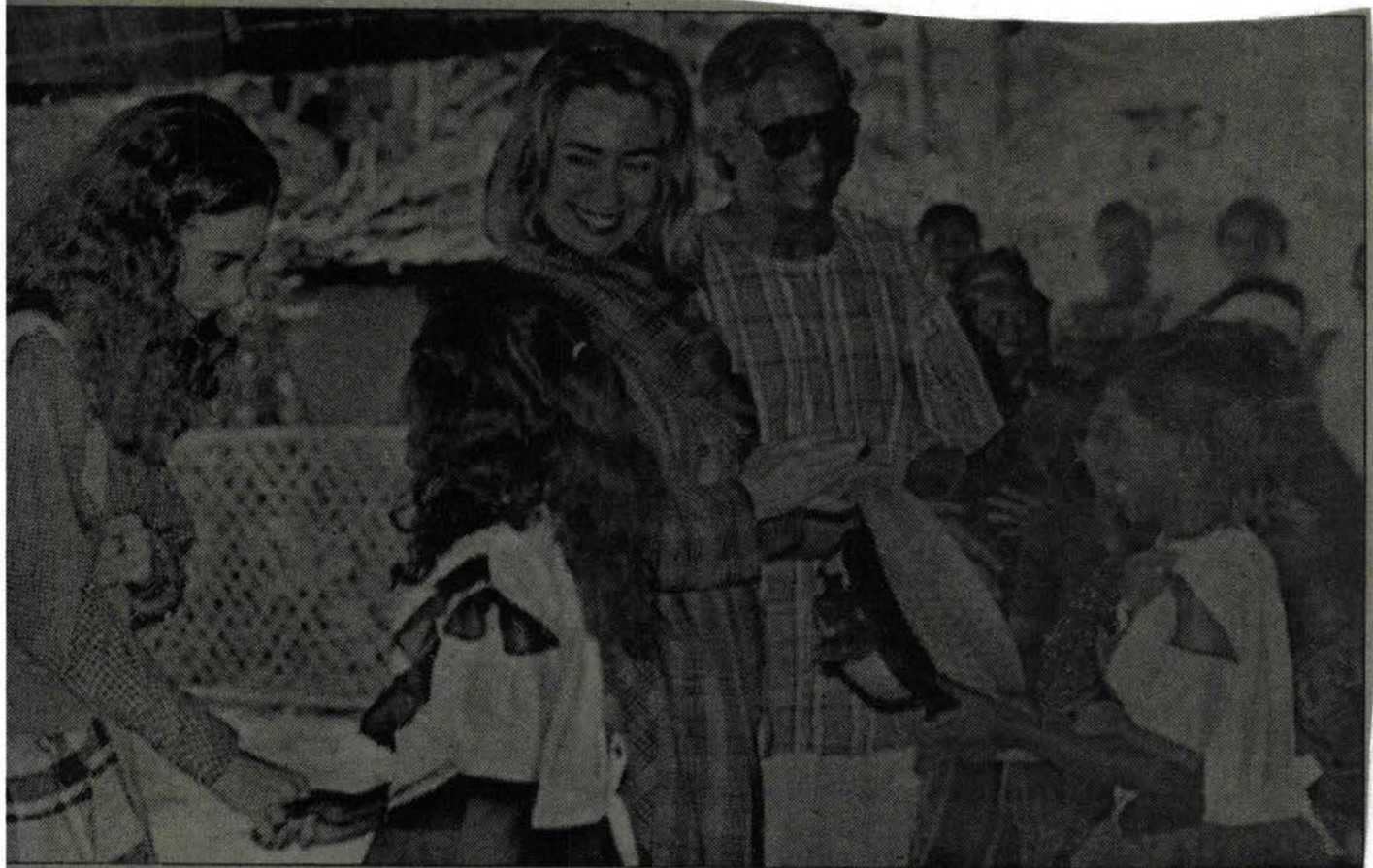
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The Bangladesh Times
April 3, 1995



**US First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea were greeted by the children of Mashihati village in
Dhenidah 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.**

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

The Bangladesh Times

April 4, 1995

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.

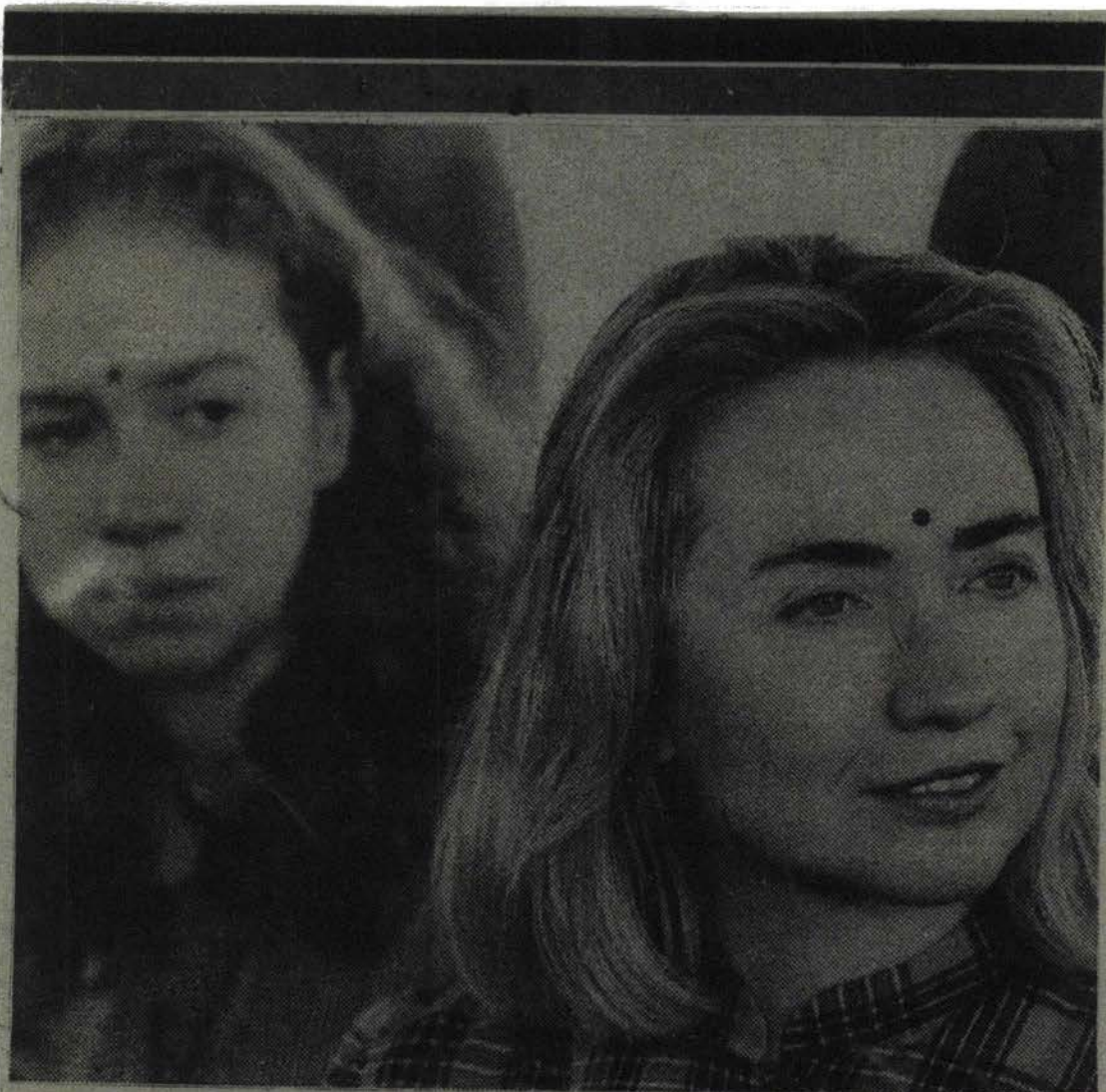
According to another source, after the US Embassy expressed its inability regarding the matter Awami League made contacts with US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, who is also travelling with Hillary Clinton, for a private meeting for only five minutes but she also expressed her inability to 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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Daily Ittefaq

April 4, 1995



বাংলাদেশের যশোর সফরকালে মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী ক্লিনটন ও তার কন্যা চেলসিয়া রুপালে ঐতিহ্যবাহী টিপ পরেন

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Times

April 4, 1995

Editorial

The Bangladesh Times

THE PILGRIMAGE TO INDIGENTS' LAND

The US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton leaves Dhaka today on conclusion of a three-day most welcome visit to Bangladesh. Hillary is accompanied by her teen-age daughter Chelsea and about 60-strong entourage including a 20-member media team on an extensive goodwill trip to South Asia that brought her here. The team arrived in Dhaka Sunday from Kathmandu on the fourth leg of the five-nation—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka—tour.

The purpose of the visit is to learn as much as possible about the kind of issues Mrs Clinton has always cared about—the human issues. "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," Mrs Clinton said. She expressed interest in Grameen Bank of Bangladesh which extends credit particularly to women, and these women then are able to take better care of themselves. Indeed the Clintons have been pursuing the Grameen experiment since their Arkansas days and there they set up a fund on the Grameen line for dealing with the poor people.

The selection of the region inhabiting around 1.2 billion—about a fifth of the world population—and more than half of the planet's people below poverty line has indeed been most appropriate. Besides density of population and intensity of poverty some of the countries in the region has quite a number of other such distinctions—illiteracy, unemployment, child and maternity mortality et cetera.

The grim profile of Bangladesh shows: 30 million people consume less than 1000 calorie per day, 42 million adults are illiterate, 11.5 million children under five are malnourished, five million children in primary school-age are out of school, 5.48 million people do not have access to health services and 600,000 children die before the age of five.

Nevertheless, Bangladesh has long been a place of pilgrimage for those who seek to help the poor for the experiments conducted here. It began with the Comilla Approach, the pioneering work of Akhtar Hameed Khan, in the early 60s. In the post liberation period Prof Mohammad Yunus kept up the tradition with his successful Grameen experiment. The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) with its Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) has made history. The Non-governmental Organisations in the country, particularly Fazle Hasan Abed's BRAC, have been doing commendable work for rural advancement and empowering women and the poor.

It is good that the itinerary of the US team headed by Mrs Clinton included visits to a Grameen project, a BRAC project and the ICDDR,B. Indeed Hillary said at the world summit on social development earlier this month 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 non-profit Grameen Bank provides small loans to the poorest women in rural areas and to the farmers and fishermen.

An exhibition of the Grameen performance was arranged at Mashihati off the south-eastern township of Jessore where Mrs Clinton flew from Dhaka on Monday. There she had seen 18 types of different income-generating work that has made Grameen Bank such a success. She had also the opportunity of talking to the destitute rural women who lived only some years back on alms and has since turned contended self-employed persons with surplus to mend homesteads and capable to afford schooling of children. The US First Lady later saw a BRAC-run non-formal primary school in Churamankathi village in Jessore. The itinerary would be rounded off this morning with a visit to the ICDDR,B.

Coming in the wake of the announcement at the Copenhagen summit of a new American initiative to fight female illiteracy in Asia, Africa and Latin America to ensure women's empowerment, the current visit of Mrs Clinton to the most populated of the target areas must be rewarding enough and lead to strategies beneficial to the disadvantaged and benighted.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Times

April 4, 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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Times

April 4, 1995

An Alphabet Flash On Hillary Clinton

Alauddin Al Azad

I

Glitters like distant stars whose own glory;
Who can write a poem on her, even though
Abundant he might have maslin words, rich
Texture of Jamdani designs, forest flute!
Moreover this is but a small wonder
That oriental splendor, driven to
Oblivion by cross turmoil of history,
Would not come to the fore when grandeur
Craze rises high in formal reception:
Not charisma, whatever thrill masquerade
Extravaganza flourish that would be
A sparkling stream when your gentle glance
Would encompass the momentous scenario—
Who can lessen the galaxy diamond touch!
Yet I am sunken in dismay—what can
I present you?—a nameless street dichter!
Ich mochte werden wie die ganz Geheimen;
Nicht auf der Stirne die Gedanken denken,
Nur eine Sehnsucht reichen in den Reimen:
Filled, if I could ask you, 'kaman achen?'

II

A mighty Confederation I don't have
But believe it or not, I reign over
A vast Empire full of dust and hunger!
Children there want milk, not sortle sanction—
Womenfolk work, for a life in dignity—
They like wonders, fairy tales but not such
Surprise as laser missiles nuclear—
Desire they the poetry of earth flamboyant.
Compressed, I know, schedule yet could you
Find a little time, beyond finesse,
To visit our village? Though Gangesless
There people have been waiting to see you—
No problem they understand one stand, aimant!
Neither Kohinoor nor Peacock throne can
They offer but shall adorn you by Shimul crown—
Bedecked in garlands, seated on a shitalpati
While you'll drink green coconut nector by straw:
Might you exclaim 'Ah!' that would be your gift:
Going back? Well, leave your angel face, take all—
Forget me, not dreaming Golden Bengal.

[Note : dichter (Gr)—Poet, aimant (Fr)—loving,
lines by Rilke, gist; like very secret people, my
thoughts would not be by brain: my rhyme will
contain nothing but longing.AAA]

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Observer

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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Times

April 6, 1995

Views

Hillary Clinton And The Farakka Barrage

Lt. Col. M.A. Latif Khan (Retd)

WE warmly welcome the visit of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady of the United States of America to Bangladesh. It is indeed encouraging to know that the US First Lady takes a deep interest in the progress of Bangladesh, especially the gigantic task of 'poverty alleviation' and 'woman emancipation'. To this effect she also asserted that the poverty alleviation programme could also be used to improve the poverty stricken people of her own country. Time and again both Mrs. Clinton and the US President Clinton have both mentioned the poverty alleviation programme initiated by the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh as a probably role model.

Since she has taken the pain and time to travel half way across the world to see the level of poverty with her own eyes we hope that this visit would be a mile stone in her mission.

I hope experts would agree that poverty alleviation or woman emancipation cannot be achieved by Grameen Bank alone. Rather, it would require national awareness and national participation with strong support of the elected Government in power. Let us ask ourselves as to why the people of Bangladesh are affected by such abject poverty. I hope you will agree that you will find not just one but several different inter-related factors that have caused this. This factors could be classified as historical, political, demographic, accessibility to international market as well as environmental. Without seriously addressing these issues there can be no comprehensive solution to this problem. The Grameen Bank project is a bold step in that direction but certainly a drop in the

sea of such a huge problem.

Surely we cannot expect the US First Lady to take up all these factors one by one and come up with viable solutions. But the influence of one individual on human lives can never be undermined. The recent success story of Ex US President Jimmy Carter in catalytically solving international crisis bears testimony to this fact. History is replete with such examples. Of all such factors, the one that is having far reaching effect is the environmental factor. Bangladesh has an agro-based economy. More than 80% of Bangladeshis depend on agriculture to earn their livelihood. River waters and fertile lands are the real natural resources of this country. To do anything that would affect farming would certainly not just break the backbone of our economy but also put the very survival of the people of this land at stake.

There may be no more people for poverty alleviation or woman for women emancipation programme. At this point it is not debatable that the environmental disaster of the lush green Bangladesh is entirely man-made and the result of blatant violation of international law by India, an upper riparian country.

Nothing could be more to blame than the Farakka Barrage and other similar dams/barrages built at the entry points of over 50 international rivers flowing from across India. This can very well be termed as an act of aggression against a peace loving people of this land. This is a state sponsored act to push a nation to a slow but inevitable destruction. Our commitment to international peace keeping is now recognized the world

over. In Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia the sons of this soil are dutifully carrying out their peace keeping role. Peace is the centre of all our beliefs.

We believe that in order to have a lasting peace in a society and thereby a nation there must be a family that will be the home of peace. Woman is the centre of such a family. Clearly, without the emancipation of woman we cannot have the family or peace for that matter. As far as woman's emancipation is concerned, our record is not terribly bad as compared to other nations. Does it have to be pointed out that both the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader of Bangladesh are women who have their own families and children? The Holy Quran reserves a separate chapter on woman titled as 'Nissa' ('Women'). Herein the rights of women are clearly defined. These definitions are not to be changed. These rights form the foundation of any law that directly or indirectly affects the affairs of a woman. Islam protected the female child who was being buried in the sand solely because of who she was.

Today the ruling Government is providing free scholarship to female students and the class attendance/participation is very encouraging. We support our Government whole heartedly in this mission. The love and care that a mother has for her children in our land is second to none. We will continue to support any programme, project or mission that improves the lot of the women, the mothers of the nation.

We see eye to eye on the poverty alleviation and the woman emancipation programme with Mrs. Clinton.

And thus as partners let us now look at the most pressing problem of our time. We urge the First Lady to consider the negative effects of the man-made ecological disaster created by the unilateral withdrawal of water by India in the poverty alleviation programme of Bangladesh. We urge her to use her good influence in the world community in the capacity of the First Lady of the US to raise the Farakka issue with the same missionary zeal as that of Jimmy Carter who successfully and single-handedly dealt with international crisis that had enormous potential of

causing human catastrophe on a large scale. Definitely, it would have been very effective if she could have been taken to witness the dead Padma and the desertification process of the North and South-West of Bangladesh. Being in Jessore, she may have seen some signs of the Farakka effect.

Finally, we conclude that undeniably the Farakka issue and for that matter a meaningful fair water sharing treaty with India should be included in any poverty alleviation programme in Bangladesh. We strongly believe that Mrs. Clinton could well work as an ambassador in raising this issue in all international forums like the one held in Copenhagen, Denmark and urge the world body to pressure India in giving Bangladesh her due share of the international water resources. A peace loving people must be promoted for a peaceful world. Not missiles but ensuring timely justice to the oppressed is the tested path to peace.

Hillary impressed with ICDDR,B role

The US First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea visited the ICDDR,B hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday before their departure for Sri Lanka, reports BSS.

State Minister for Social Welfare Mrs. Sarwari Rahman and the US Ambassador in Bangladesh Mr. David N. Merrill accompanied Mrs. Hillary and Chelsea to the ICDDR,B hospital where they stayed for an hour. Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea were introduced to the centre's Director Mr. Demissie Habte and other officials of the centre were present there.

In her remark, Mrs. Clinton said, "I have heard a great deal about the centre and the importance of its work for the world and I am pleased to be able to come here to see it for myself".

She also heard about the centre's research programmes on Health and Family Planning and said that there were many important lessons not just for the developing world but for developed world including the United States.

In view of her involvement in the US health care reform, Mrs. Clinton was particularly interested in ORS and its potential to save nearly half a billion dollars a year in health care costs in the US alone. Doctors at the centre and medical schools including the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, have long advocate that ORS also has great potential for industrialized nations. Over 220,000 children are hospitalized in the U.S. each year for severe gastrointestinal illnesses. All these children are put on intravenous drips at an average cost of 2,300 US dollars when a few packets of ORS could be used for little over a tenth of the cost.

Another example of the centre's work that particularly impressed Mrs. Clinton and Americans everywhere, was the work of the emergency team sent to Goma. Last year, when Cholera was killing thousands of Rwandans at the teeming refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, USAID Administrator Brian Atwood called on the expertise of "the most prestigious and knowledgeable organisation in the world".

An eight-member team of experts from the centre was quickly dispatched to Zaire, where they provided briefings and technical assistance to the international relief agencies. Substantial changes, such as large gauge, IV needling, a faster rate of initial rehydration and effective use of ORS, were introduced. These changes helped slash mortality rates in the refugee camps from as high as

nearly 50 per cent to less than 1 per cent.

Mrs. Clinton heard that the centre's hospital treated 139,700 patients in 1993, 114,000 in 1994, and that on the day before she visited 487 patients were treated. She was amazed to hear that the average cost of treatment per patient was only 12 US dollar, and that despite the critical condition of so many of the patients, the free treatment provided is so effective that less than 0.6 per cent of them die.

Mrs. Clinton visited the centre's nutrition rehabilitation unit, several research projects and showed keen interest in the centre's work on V. Cholerae 0139, the new Cholera strain. In late 1992, centre epidemiologists began investigating a new virulent strain of Cholera—the first to appear in more than 100 years ago.

This strain, called V. Cholerae 0139, is now spreading rapidly through Asia and is virtually certain to cause a new global pandemic of Cholera. Within weeks of its discovery, centre Microbiologists developed diagnostic antisera that was then sent around the world. Clinicians described the pathophysiology of the disease and environmental microbiologists established its mode of spread in surface waters.

Through the centre's extra ordinary effort, the world was quickly warned of the dangers of this new organism, allowing preventive measures to be taken. Despite this advanced warning, and the precautionary measures that countries were able to take in response, V. Cholerae 0139 is now affecting nearly 15 countries in the region.

The Bangladesh Times

April 8, 1995

US-Bangla friendship remains strong : Hillary

Dhaka's successes are models for others

United States First Lady Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton left Dhaka Tuesday after a three-day visit deeply impressed by the strength and determination of the Bangladeshi people for their socio-economic uplift, reports BSS.

"The successes I witnessed here are models for rest of the world as well as reminders to the work that remains to be done," she said in a statement in a glowing tribute to this country.

The First Lady, who during stay here visited the far-flung rural areas of this country to see for herself the relentless efforts at government and non-government levels aimed at

multi-facet welfare of the vast multitude, said Bangladeshi people are "true pioneers" in the fields of health care, education, economic development and population.

"In my future travels to other countries and around the United States, I will remember the creative and innovative solutions applied here to some of humanity's most vexing problems," Ms Clinton said as she left the country for Sri Lanka on the last leg of her five-nation South Asian tour.

The United States First Lady said finally, she owes special thanks to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for taking the time to exchange views on a range of issues of mutual

interest to the United States and Bangladesh. "The friendship between the our two nations remain strong, and I am confident it will become even more so in the years ahead," she said about the Dhaka-Washington bilateral ties.

Foreign Minister A SM Mostafizur Rahman and his wife saw off Ms Clinton and her daughter Chelsea at the VVIP terminal of the Zia International Airport.

The blue-white special aircraft of the Presidential fleet of the United States took off shortly before the midday as Ms Clinton departed for the first ever by a United States First Lady to this country.

The American First Lady conveyed her heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Bangladesh for their warm and generous hospitality during the visit.

She arrived near the aircraft in a specially flown black Limousine escorted by American secret service and Bangladesh security. She was presented with bouquets by two tiny tots whom Ms Clinton patted affectionately.

Hillary and Chelsea

Contd. on page 8 col. 7

Dhaka's successes

Contd. from page 1

appeared relaxed and casually dressed as they smilingly thanked the Foreign Minister for the kind of warmth extended during the visit.

With dark glasses, the mother and the daughter waved from the doorstep of the aircraft before emplaning.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Sarwari Rahman, who was minister-in-

attendance, was also present along with American Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman said the statement of the First Lady is a testimony of the impression that she has about this country.

Foreign Secretary Mr Sobhan said Bangladesh will be better and positively projected in the United States in the administration and the media following this visit.

Hillary is known to be wielding considerable influence on President Clinton. Her identity transcends the parameter of only First Lady as herself being an eminent lawyer, she played a leading role in the election of her husband President.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Daily Inqilab

April 4, 1995

১৫ হিজরী ১৪

আন্তর্জাতিক নদীগুলোর পানি প্রত্যাহারের ফলে বাংলাদেশে মারাত্মক পরিবেশগত ক্ষতি ঘটেছে — খালেদা জিয়া

আলোচনার মাধ্যমে পানি সমস্যার সমাধান হবে বলে আশা করি

হিলারী ক্লিনটন

সফররত মার্কিন ফার্স্ট লেডী হিলারী ক্লিনটন বাংলাদেশের শিক্ষার বিনিময়ে খাদ্য কর্মসূচীর উচ্চ প্রশংসা করে একে অনন্য উদ্যোগ বলে আখ্যায়িত করেছেন। খবর বাসস'র। গতকাল বেশ কিছুসংখ্যক আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প পরিদর্শনের পর প্রধানমন্ত্রী খালেদা জিয়ার কাছে তাঁর অভিজ্ঞতা বর্ণনার সময় মিসেস ক্লিনটন বলেন, বিশ্বের আর কোথাও এমন চমৎকার কর্মসূচী আছে কিনা আমার জানা নেই। মিসেস ক্লিনটন গতকাল রাতে তাঁর সম্মানে বেগম জিয়া কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নৈশভোজে যোগদানের আগে ৩০, হেয়ার রোডে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সাথে এক বৈঠকে মিলিত হন। বেগম খালেদা জিয়া জনগণের কল্যাণে তাঁর সরকারের আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ড

সম্পর্কে সংক্ষেপে হিলারীকে অবহিত করেন। তিনি বলেন, পানির অভাব এবং দেশের উত্তরাঞ্চলে খরা পরিস্থিতি বিয়াক্ত না থাকলে খাদ্য উৎপাদন আরো ভাল হতে পারত। প্রধানমন্ত্রী বলেন, আন্তর্জাতিক নদীগুলোর উজানে শুষ্ক মৌসুমে পানি প্রত্যাহারের ফলে মারাত্মক পরিবেশগত ক্ষতি ঘটেছে। তিনি বলেন, এ সমস্যা সমাধান করা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। মিসেস ক্লিনটন আশা প্রকাশ করেন যে, বাংলাদেশ ও তার প্রতিবেশীর মধ্যে আলোচনার মাধ্যমে এ সমস্যার সমাধান হবে। তিনি বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অংশে জাতিসংঘ বাহিনীতে বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অংশগ্রহণের প্রশংসা করেন।

শেষ পৃঃ ৪-এর কঃ দেখুন



গতকাল হিলারী রডহাম ক্লিনটনের সম্মানে প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া কর্তৃক তার হেয়ার রোড কার্যালয়ে আয়োজিত নৈশভোজের প্রাকালে

বাংলাদেশ-যুক্তরাষ্ট্র সম্পর্ক ভবিষ্যতে আরও জোরদার হইবে : হিলারী

বাসস ॥ যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী মিসেস হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্লিনটন বাংলাদেশে তিনদিনের সফর শেষে গতকাল মঙ্গলবার কলকাতার উদ্দেশ্যে ঢাকা ত্যাগের প্রাক্কালে এক বিবৃতিতে বলেন, "আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে বাংলাদেশীদের মনোবল ও সঙ্কল্প দেখিয়া আমি মুগ্ধ। এখানে আমি যে সাফল্য দেখিয়াছি তাহা বিশ্বের অন্যদের জন্য মডেল হিসাবে পরিগণিত হইবে।" মিসেস হিলারী ক্লিনটন বলেন : "ভবিষ্যতে অন্যান্য দেশ সফরকালে এবং যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে

আমি বাংলাদেশী জনগণের সৃজনশীল ও উদ্ভাবনী কর্মতৎপরতার কথা তুলিয়া ধরিব। মিসেস হিলারী ক্লিনটন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে পারস্পরিক স্বার্থ সর্জনপ্রতি বিষয়াবলী সম্পর্কে মতবিনিময় করিতে এখনকার সময়কে বাছিয়া নেয়ার জন্য প্রধানমন্ত্রী খালেদা জিয়াকে বিশেষভাবে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন। মিসেস ক্লিনটন বলেন : "আমাদের দুই দেশের মধ্যে বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক নিবিড় এবং আমি আশা রাখি ভবিষ্যতে এ সম্পর্ক আরও জোরদার

হইবে।" বিমান বন্দরে মিসেস ক্লিনটন ও তাহার কন্যা চেলসিরাকে বিদায় সম্বরণ জানান পররাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী এ এস. এম. মোস্তাফিজুর রহমান ও ভাস্করী পট্টনী। মধ্যাহ্নের অব্যবহিত আগে মিসেস ক্লিনটন ও তাহার সফর সঙ্গীরা ঢাকা ত্যাগ করেন। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের কোন ফার্স্ট লেডী বাংলাদেশে ইহাই প্রথম সফর। সফরকালে উচ্চ ও উদার আভিধেয়তাদানের জন্য যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী বাংলাদেশের সরকার ও জনগণকে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন। (১৩শ পৃঃ প্রঃ)

আইসিডিডিআরবি-এর সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বলা হয়, নারায়ক পেটের পীড়ায় প্রতি বছর ২ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার শিশু যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের বিভিন্ন হাসপাতালে ভর্তি হয়। এইসব শিশুদের শিরায় স্যালাইন দেওয়া হয়। গড়ে প্রত্যেক রোগীর চিকিৎসায় ২ হাজার ৩ শত মার্কিন ডলার খরচ পড়ে। কয়েক প্যাকেট খাবার স্যালাইনের সাহায্যে দশভাগের এক ভাগ খরচে এসব শিশুদের কার্যকর চিকিৎসা করা যায়। মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে আরও অবহিত করা হয় আই সি ডি ডি আর বিতে ডায়রিয়ায় আক্রান্ত প্রতি রোগীর চিকিৎসায় মাত্র ১২ ডলার খরচ পড়ে। খাবার স্যালাইনের সাহায্যে ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসা অত্যন্ত কার্যকর এবং রোগীর

মৃত্যুহার শূন্য দশমিক ৬ ভাগের চাইতে কম। মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে কেন্দ্রের অন্যান্য স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কেও অবহিত করা হয়। তিনি আইসি-ডিডিআরবিতে ১ ঘণ্টা অবস্থান করেন।

হিলারী

(১ম পৃঃ পর)

উদরাময় গবেষণা কেন্দ্র পরিদর্শন

যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী মিসেস হিলারী রডহ্যাম ক্লিনটন কন্যা চেলসিয়াকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে গতকাল মহাখালীস্থ আন্তর্জাতিক উদরাময় গবেষণা কেন্দ্র (আই সি ডি ডি আর, বি) পরিদর্শন করেন। মহিলা বিষয়ক প্রতিমন্ত্রী মিসেস সারোয়ারী রহমান ও বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত মার্কিন রাষ্ট্রদূত মিঃ ডেভিড এন মেরিল এই সময়ে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। আই সি ডি ডি আর, বি-এর পবিচালক বিজ্ঞানী ডঃ ডেমিসি হারভে মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে কেন্দ্রের চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য পরিচর্যা ও গবেষণা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে অবহিত করেন। মিসেস ক্লিনটন বলেন, ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসার ক্ষেত্রে আইসিডিডি আর, বি'র অবদান এবং বিশ্ববাসীর নিকট কেন্দ্রের কার্যক্রমের গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে আমি শুনিয়াছি। আমি নিজে এই কার্যক্রম দেখার জন্য আসিতে পারিরা খুশী হইয়াছি। তিনি কেন্দ্রের গবেষণা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে তাহার উচ্চ বারপা পোষণ করিয়া বলেন, শুধু উন্নয়ন-শীল দেশের নয়—যুক্তরাষ্ট্রসহ উন্নত দেশসমূহেরও এই কেন্দ্র হইতে শিক্ষার রহিয়াছে। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের স্বাস্থ্য সেবা কার্যক্রমের পুনর্গঠনের মত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ দায়িত্বের সহিত সংশ্লিষ্ট মিসেস ক্লিনটন মন্তব্যঃ নিজ দেশে আইসিডিডিআরবি উদ্ভাবিত খাবার স্যালাইনের সহায়তায় ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসার সাহায্যে স্বাস্থ্য খাতে বছরে অন্তত ৫০ কোটি ডলার সাঞ্চ

April 5, 1995

বাংলাদেশ-যুক্তরাষ্ট্র সম্পর্ক ভবিষ্যতে আরও জোরদার হইবে : হিলারী

বাসস ॥ যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী মিসেস হিলারী রডহাম ক্লিনটন বাংলাদেশে তিনদিনের সফর শেষে গতকাল মঙ্গলবার কলকাতার উদ্দেশ্যে ঢাকা ত্যাগের প্রাক্কালে এক বিবৃতিতে বলেন, "আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে বাংলাদেশীদের মনোবল ও সঙ্কল্প দেখিয়া আমি মুগ্ধ। এখানে আমি যে সাফল্য দেখিয়াছি তাহা বিশ্বের অন্যদের জন্য মডেল হিসাবে পরিগণিত হইবে।" মিসেস হিলারী ক্লিনটন বলেন : "ভবিষ্যতে অন্যান্য দেশ সফরকালে এবং যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে

আমি বাংলাদেশী জনগণের সৃজনশীল ও উদ্ভাবনী কর্মতৎপরতার কথা তুলিয়া ধরিব। মিসেস হিলারী ক্লিনটন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও বাংলাদেশের মধ্যে পারস্পরিক স্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়াবলী সম্পর্কে মতবিনিময় করিতে এখনকার সময়কে বাছিয়া নেয়ার জন্য প্রধানমন্ত্রী খালেদা জিয়াকে বিশেষভাবে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন। মিসেস ক্লিনটন বলেন : "আমাদের দুই দেশের মধ্যে বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক নিবিড় এবং আমি আশা রাখি ভবিষ্যতে এ সম্পর্ক আরও জোরদার

হইবে।" বিমান বন্দরে মিসেস ক্লিনটন ও তাহার কন্যা হেলসিয়াকে বিদায় সম্বাদন জানান পররাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী এ এস.এম. মোতাহিডুল রহমান ও ভদ্রীয়া পত্নী। মধ্যাহ্নে অব্যবহিত আগে মিসেস ক্লিনটন ও তাহার সফর সঙ্গীরা ঢাকা ত্যাগ করেন। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের কোন ফার্স্ট লেডীর বাংলাদেশে ইহাই প্রথম সফর। সফরকালে উচ্চ ও উদার আতিথেয়তাদানের জন্য যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী বাংলাদেশের সরকার ও জনগণকে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন। (১৩শ পৃষ্ঠা)

আইসিডিডিআরবি-এর সংবাদ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বলা হয়, মারাত্মক পেটের পীড়ায় প্রতি বছর ২ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার শিশু যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের বিভিন্ন হাসপাতালে ভর্তি হয়। এইসব শিশুদের শিরায় স্যালাইন দেওয়া হয়। গড়ে প্রত্যেক রোগীর চিকিৎসায় ২ হাজার ৩ শত মার্কিন ডলার খরচ পড়ে। কয়েক প্যাকেট খাবার স্যালাইনের সাহায্যে দশভাগের এক ভাগ খরচে ঐসব শিশুদের কার্যকর চিকিৎসা করা যায়। মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে আরও অবহিত করা হয় আইসিডিডিআরবিতে ডায়রিয়ায় আক্রান্ত প্রতি রোগীর চিকিৎসায় মাত্র ১২ ডলার খরচ পড়ে। খাবার স্যালাইনের সাহায্যে ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসা অত্যন্ত কার্যকর এবং রোগীর

মৃত্যুহার শূন্য দশমিক ৬ ভাগের চাইতে কম। মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে কেন্দ্রের অন্যান্য স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কেও অবহিত করা হয়। তিনি আইসিডিডিআরবিতে ১ ঘণ্টা অবস্থান করেন।

হিলারী

(১ম পৃঃ পর)

উদরাময় গবেষণা কেন্দ্র পরিদর্শন

যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডী মিসেস হিলারী রডহাম ক্লিনটন কন্যা সেলসিয়াকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে গতকাল মহাখালীস্থ আন্তর্জাতিক উদরাময় গবেষণা কেন্দ্র (আই সি ডি ডি আর, বি) পরিদর্শন করেন। মহিলা বিষয়ক প্রতিমন্ত্রী মিসেস সারোয়ারী রহমান ও বাংলাদেশে নিযুক্ত মার্কিন রাষ্ট্রদূত মিঃ ডেভিড এন মেরিল এই সময়ে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। আই সি ডি ডি আর, বি-এর পবিত্রাচলক বিজ্ঞানী ডঃ ডেমিসি হাবতে মিসেস ক্লিনটনকে কেন্দ্রের চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য পরিচর্যা ও গবেষণা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে অবহিত করেন। মিসেস ক্লিনটন বলেন, ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসার কেন্দ্রে আইসিডিডি আর, বি'র অবদান এবং বিশ্বব্যাপী নিকট কেন্দ্রের কার্যক্রমের গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে আমি শুনিয়াছি। আমি নিজে এই কার্যক্রম দেখার জন্য আসিতে পারিয়া বৃশী হইয়াছি। তিনি কেন্দ্রের গবেষণা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে তাহার উচ্চ ধারণা

পোষণ করিয়া বলেন, শুধু উন্নয়নশীল দেশের নয়—যুক্তরাষ্ট্রসহ উন্নত দেশসমূহেরও এই কেন্দ্র হইতে শিক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হইতে পারে। যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের স্বাস্থ্য সেবা কার্যক্রমের পুনর্গঠনের মত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ দায়িত্বের সহিত সংশ্লিষ্ট মিসেস ক্লিনটন মূলতঃ নিজ দেশে আইসিডিডিআরবি উদ্ভাবিত খাবার স্যালাইনের সহায়তায় ডায়রিয়া চিকিৎসার মাধ্যমে স্বাস্থ্য খাতে বছরে অন্তত ৫০ কোটি ডলার সাঞ্চি

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

হিলারি ও চেলসি গ্রামীণ চেককে বিশ্ব ফ্যাশানে নিয়ে গেলেন

বিচিত্রার একটি প্রচ্ছদ গ্রামীণ চেককে আলোচনার
কেন্দ্রবিন্দুতে নিয়ে আসে। বর্তমান ঘটনা দেশী



কাপড়ের ক্ষেত্রে নতুন
মাত্রা যোগ করলো। এখন
প্রয়োজন আত্মবিশ্বাস ও
বাজারজাত করার
দক্ষতা। এই প্রচ্ছদ
শিরোনাম স্বপ্ন নয়,
পরিস্থিতির যৌক্তিক
উপস্থাপন করেছেন
আশরাফ কায়সার



যেই গ্রামীণ চেকের মডেল হিলারি ও চেলসি।
আমিনুল ইসলাম শাহীনের ক্যামেরায়

মার্কিন বিমান বাহিনীর সি-১৩০ এয়ার
ক্র্যাফট থেকে কন্যা চেলসিকে নিয়ে
যশোর বিমান বন্দরে নামছিলেন হিলারি ক্রিস্টন।
পরনে থাকির উপর ডার্ক ব্রু আর ব্র্যাক চেকের
ড্রেস। চেলসিরও চেক। উপস্থিত ব্যক্তিবর্গ হিলারি
ও চেলসির নতুন বৈশিষ্ট্য কি খরতে পারলেন?
মনে হয় না। দেখে মনে হচ্ছিলো বিখ্যাত কোন
ফ্যাশন হাউসের গরম উপযোগী পোশাক। কিন্তু
খুশি হয়ে উঠলেন গ্রামীণের লোকজন। খুশি হলেন
ডঃ ইউনুস। হিলারি ও চেলসির পরনে গ্রামীণেরই
পোশাক।

হিলারি ও চেলসিকে ডেসগুলো আগেরদিন
উপহার দেন ডঃ ইউনুস। কিন্তু তখনও তিনি
নিশ্চিত ছিলেন না ফ্যাশন সচেতন হিলারি এ
ড্রেস পরবেন কি-না।

হিলারি অত্যন্ত আগ্রহ নিয়ে গ্রামীণ চেক
পরেছেন, স্বচ্ছন্দে পাঁচঘন্টা ঘুরে বেড়িয়েছেন

যশোরের প্রত্যন্ত গ্রামে। তখন যশোরের তাপমাত্রা
ছিল ৩৮.২° সেলসিয়াস যা ছিল দেশে সেদিনের
সর্বোচ্চ তাপমাত্রা। সেখানেই কর্মব্যস্ত সময়ের
একফাঁকে তিনি ইউনুসকে বলেছেন 'ড্রেসটা
সত্যিই খুব সুন্দর, কাপড়টা গরমে আরামদায়ক।'
সফরসঙ্গীদের অনেককেই ঘুরে ফিরে ড্রেস
দেখাচ্ছিলেন হিলারি। মুগ্ধ, বিস্মিত গ্রামীণ মহি-
লারাও অবাক চোখে দেখছিলেন তাদের তৈরি
কাপড়ে হিলারিকে। টিভি নিউজে যারা হিলারিকে
আগ্রহভরে দেখছিলেন তারাও অবাক হন, এই
বিশেষ পোশাকের কারণে। বিশ্বের নামীদামী সাং-
বাদিক ফটোগ্রাফাররা গ্রামীণ চেকের পোশাকেই
ক্যামেরাবন্দী করছিলেন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের ফার্স্ট লেডিকে।

নিশ্চিতভাবেই এসব ছবি ছাপা হবে
পাশ্চাত্যের পত্র-পত্রিকায়। অথবা ইতিমধ্যেই
ছাপা হয়ে গেছে কোথাও না কোথাও। কাপড়টি
কি, কোথায় তৈরি হয়েছে এসব প্রশ্ন উঠছে

সেখানে। চলে আসছে বাংলাদেশের নাম।
এদেশের গরীব, প্রাচীন তাতীদের কথাই বলতে
হচ্ছে এই সুনির্পূর্ণ বছরের কারিগর হিসেবে।

হ্যাঁ, এটা বিচিত্রার হাইপোথিসিস, আশা-
ব্যঞ্জক অনুমান যে, হিলারি ও চেলসিই গ্রামীণ
চেককে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করলেন বিশ্ব ফ্যাশনে। একজন
ফ্যাশন সচেতন মহিলা অন্যজন টিনএজার। এ
কাপড়ে তৈরি ফ্যাশনের বিস্তৃতি যদি সেভাবেই
ঘটে?

কিছু না ঘটলেও সিরাজগঞ্জের বেলকুটি
গ্রামের এক তাঁতি হলেন মার্কিন কান্টলেডির
ড্রেসের কাপড় বুননের দাবিদার।

বিদেশ না হোক দেশে গ্রামীণ চেকের এই
ক্ষেত্রে নতুন মাত্রা যোগ করলেন হিলারি-চেলসি।
গ্রামীণ চেকের ড্রেসটিতে হিলারিকে এতোটাই

Economic Times
April 7, 1995

Econom

'Human issues' focus of Hillary's trip

WASHINGTON: 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

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

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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Holiday
April 7, 1995

COMMENTS

Hillary's choice Crime against earth

The lady with the blue floral scarf, wrapped around her slender shoulders and knotted down below her neckline, could as well have been mistaken for a Girls' Guide volunteer. When she changed from her aesthetically simple Western attire, and not the usual designer *haute couture*, into Grameen Check sari, she was almost looking a part of the Grameen womenfolk of Moishahati in Jessore district—demure and pretty, and yet a growing symbol of matriarchy in a gender-biased Asiatic culture.

The two images of Hillary Rodham Clinton make a montage of easy mix that will remain vivid for long in this land. Hillary Clinton chose to travel a long way to see and believe in joy and empathy what she said she had watched for ten years from the distant clime of Arkansas. The Grameen revolution that has quietly changed the women without faces in dirt-poor Bangladesh into the daring of holding half the sky, to quote from Chairman Mao, had its first-ever world premiere. The agenda of hope for, and empowerment of women in a poverty-culture has now found its echo even in the metropolis of world power.

Hillary's choice was simple. She told about her keen, long watch to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her brief ceremonial toast at the reception hosted by her at Dhaka's US embassy premises. Long before coming to the White House, she and her husband Bill Clinton—then the Governor of the little-known State of Arkansas—introduced the Grameen model of empowerment of the poor and the disadvantaged women in their native

Last week, we wrote about a much bigger crime against the earth and the peasantry of Bangladesh by a cartel of single super phosphate fertiliser millionaires. It was a follow-up story on the urea fertiliser scam for which Zahiruddin Khan has owned the moral responsibility and resigned from the Cabinet in atonement. Or, so we are told.

The urea fertiliser crisis was, and is essentially the upshot of policy-failure in pricing of urea and a disguised intervention into the distribution system. Corruption and profiteering were built into the policy-failure, not to speak of the export bonanza for another cartel. But the single super phosphate (SSP) import and marketing ploy to dupe the peasantry out of their wits and purses, to quote an expression from last week's story, and to hurt the fertility of the cropland in the course, is an economic crime of an inordinate nature. The material evidences, cited in the media in recent months, and specifically in Holiday last week, of this crime against earth and the economic swindle practised on a duped peasantry still begs justice from the government.

The cartel, as is well-known by now, is actively backed by the Ministry of Agriculture with beneficiaries from among it, including a ministerial protegee. While the material evidences of SSP being faked as TSP, for the identity of colour and shape, came to light, the ministry banned the import of SSP in granular form, and black and grey colour, effective December 31, 1994. The ban was enforced at the behest of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when she came to know of the biggest swindle of our times. But the cartel got round with it. The fertilizer market not only requires strict monitoring but also moral supervision. The Agriculture Ministry has defaulted on both counts. Instead, it has practised delinquency in policy-manipulation, as contrasted with policy failure, for abetting a cartel that feeds on peasants' destitution for windfall gains and commits the most heinous crime against earth. We demand thorough probe into the cartel, the broad daylight swindling of the peasantry and the harm caused to the productivity of our soil. The criminals must be brought to book.

state. Hillary's South Asian trip, the focal destination was Bangladesh—thanks to Grameen. Politics and the elite that came her way in the course of the visit were on the sidelines. And she sought to search out beyond Grameen, into one of the 29,000 non-formal BRAC schools (see report on Page 5), and other allied projects for women and children in development. The choice was hers, and the pride is ours. The development premiere goes on even amidst political scrambles and the greed that goes with it.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Holiday
April 7, 1995

HOLIDAY 5

Students of BRAC school impress Hillary

By M. TAJUL ISLAM

As Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton stepped into the thatched tin-roofed mud-floored three hundred square meter school of BRAC under the shade of palm, betel-nut and mango trees in Churamonkathi village in Jessore on the morning of Monday April 3 at 10:55 she in fact stepped into 29,000 schools of BRAC scattered almost all over the country.

There were no welcome arches, no shamiana, no buntings, no banners or festoons. It was like any other visitor walking into any BRAC school any day anywhere in Bangladesh. The only difference was that this time the visitor in that remote Churamonkathi village was the First Lady of the United States of America and that was why the Executive Director of BRAC, Fazle Hasan Abed, was present to receive the distinguished guest at the doorstep of the school. The other difference was that thousands of men and women gathered beside the school to see the visitor from the other end of the world and greeted her with clappings and cheers.

Sitting on ordinary wooden stool, Mrs. Clinton and her daughter Chelsea watched spellbound for sixteen minutes the lively children from landless poor families singing Bengali version of the game "be quick" as they chanted the names of different countries, one by one while clapping their hands and snapping their fingers. Chelsea found this especially interesting, and was rather amazed at these little children of this remote Bangladesh village knowing names of so many different countries ranging from Japan to America—even Brazil and Bosnia. Presenting the guests with bunches of snow-white Rajaniandha, they sang

another rhyme, "We are small, we have nothing to offer you except love from our little hearts." Abed gave the visitors a brief background of BRAC'S Non-Formal Primary Education programme. He explained that the programme started in 1985 following a request of the poor parents of those unfortunate children who were either unenrolled or dropouts from formal schools. The experiment resulted in spectacular success followed by very fast expansion of the one-room, one-class one-teacher, three-year school with 30 to 33 children, minimum of

there to help them at home as their parents can neither read nor write. The school timing is also flexible according to the needs of the children in their families which vary from season to season. Rate of attendance is almost 100%. About 95% of the children move to grade IV or V in formal schools after three years where their performances are said to be better than others. Mrs. Clinton talked to teacher Shahanara, a housewife from the same village trained by BRAC as a teacher and told her that she was doing an excellent job.



BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed briefing US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea about BRAC schools.

70% of whom are girls. He said that the programme is now expanding at the rate of about one thousand new schools every month and the number will reach 37,000 by the end of the year accommodating over one million children.

Sitting on mats in U-shaped formation with their books, slates, copybooks, pencils—supplied free of cost—the children showed the progress of their studies of Bengali, Maths and Social Studies including Environment. Mrs. Clinton also came to know that the schools have no exams, no punishment and no homework, since nobody is

When the US First Lady was watching the performance of the children the army of American media vied with each other for capturing the unusual moments in their cameras through the open space and windows around the class room and through banana, guava and betel nut trees.

Mrs Hillary Clinton was very impressed. And that is why she wanted to share her impression with the media, and through them, the people of her country. She asked Abed whether he could spare somebody for fifteen minutes to be on board the media bus to brief them about the unique na-

ture and the success of the BRAC school system. So I travelled with them to the next spot which was the last leg of her Jessore trip. I do not know how much they will remember what I said but I remember what some of the White House correspondents told me: "We covered many countries, many eventual meetings and hand-shakes between people who are moulding the destiny of this world. This is our first visit to this region, to your country. Time has come for us to tell our people that there is a beautiful country full of hard working, vibrant and friendly people, who are trying to change their destiny fighting many odds created by men, and sometime by nature. They do not lose hope. They never give up. Time has come to tell the people of our town that the world stretches beyond the Washington Beltway."

I went to Churamonkathi a day before with some of the White House staff not to put up a stage-managed show but to ensure that the things remain as they are. I will never forget President Clinton's speech writer Paul Meyers sitting on the floor, talking, playing, laughing with the giggling children, running with them on the dusty country road carrying one of them on his shoulder. "You seem to be immensely enjoying yourself, Paul." "Yea, I have gone back to my childhood. These kids are so bright, so lively and natural. Just like your country. It is so satisfying to see them getting the light of knowledge they were deprived of."

Stepping out of the school after saying goodbye to the children, Mrs. Clinton's spontaneous reaction was, "This is a remarkable achievement indeed!"

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Dialogue
April 10, 1995

Hillary Clinton Is Deeply Impressed

The first lady of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton left Bangladesh for Sri Lanka April 4 on the last leg of her five-nation tour of South Asia profusely complimenting the Bangladeshi people whom she described as "true pioneers in the fields of healthcare, education, economic development and population." She was "deeply impressed" with the "strength and determination" of the people of Bangladesh.

The departure ceremony at Dhaka's Zia international airport was simple like the arrival ceremony. Two tiny tots presented her with bouquet of flowers before she and her 15-year old daughter Chelsea emplaned for their onward journey to Sri Lanka. Bangladesh foreign minister A S M Mostaffizur Rahman and his wife were at the airport to see Mrs Clinton off.

"The success I witnessed here are models for the rest of the world — as well as reminders of the

HILLARY, Page 11

HILLARY CLINTON

(Continued from front page)

work that remains to be done," said Mrs Clinton adding, "In my future travels to other countries and around the United States, I will remember the creative and innovative solution applied to some of humanity's most vexing problems."

She had words of thanks for prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia "for taking the time to exchange views on a range of issues of mutual interest to the United States and Bangladesh."

Hillary Clinton also spoke warmly of the strong friendship existing between her country and Bangladesh and was confident that "it will become even more so in the years ahead."

The American first lady's visit will provide a strong moral support to this country and will help a better projection of Bangladesh in the United States and around the world. Said Professor Yunus,

founder of Grameen Bank: "When Hillary Clinton says something, the world listens to it." He was confident that her visit would have a "tremendous impact" on the uplift of women throughout the world and eventually change the global financial system as a whole, he said.

It was Professor Yunus who brought home to the Clintons the concept of Grameen Bank during their days in Little Rock, Arkansas in the 1980s when Bill Clinton was governor. The Grameen concept caught their imagination and he replicated it in his home state with success. Since that eventful meeting, the Clintons became ardent champions of Grameen Bank.

The visit to Grameen Bank project in a remote village, Hrishipur, was the high point of her tour of Bangladesh as she had been looking forward to seeing for herself the operation of its rural banking aimed at upliftment of rural women. The recovery rate of loan given to women is 98 per cent which is high by the average recovery rate of loans in commercial banking.

When she visited some project sites in the bordering district of Jessore, she braved the scorching sun and walked from one thatched house to another, mingled with rural womenfolk as if she was one of them being of the same gender. She came face to face with the women who have become a model for social development. The otherwise sleepy villages suddenly came to life with the arrival of the US first lady. Thousands of women poured out onto the winding village lanes to have a glimpse of hers and her daughter. The Grameen Bank women presented her a sari made of a special cotton fabric known as *Grameen Check*. They also helped her wear it.

She was so enchanted with the lush green vegetation that the first lady took some snapshots of paddy fields with her own camera. "She spent about four hours in a relaxed mood in a quite unfamiliar environment. She listened to folk songs rendered by boys and girls in her honour. "This is a recognition...this is a village nobody would ever care to come to. Now the first lady of the world has come to this village so we are all important," said Prof Yunus of Hrishipur village.

Hillary Clinton's visit was unofficial. It was specially designed to enable her to see Grameen Bank project, an education project run by another NGO, BRAC and a project on population. Back in Dhaka, she found time to meet leading women who are working in the fields of children's and women's development. □

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Bangladesh Times

April 4, 1995

DA-31

APRIL

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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION