

SECTION ONE

4:22 a.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- An event steeped in civil rights symbolism offers rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama an opportunity to show unity with the black community while they spar over support from a crucial Democratic constituency. The two leading candidates for the 2008 presidential nomination are scheduled to give nearly simultaneous speeches behind church pulpits just half a block apart from each other in Selma, Alabama, on Sunday. The events will commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the bloody civil rights march there that helped rollback segregation in the South. Later, the candidates will join civil rights leaders, public officials and others in what has become an annual walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state troopers stopped civil rights marchers in 1965, turning them back using nightsticks and tear gas.

4:24 a.m. EST

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- A magnitude-4.2 earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay area Thursday night, rattling residents' nerves but causing no major damage or injuries. The temblor struck at 8:40 p.m. and was centered a mile northeast of the East Bay town of Lafayette, according to a preliminary report by the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake, which could be felt by residents throughout the region, lasted between 10 to 15 seconds. Bridges in the area did not sustain any damages, the California Highway Patrol said. Trains on the Bay Area Rapid Transit system were temporarily stopped, but resumed normal service about 30 minutes later, said BART spokesman Lynton Johnson. Residents told a local television station some items broke in their homes, but there were no major damage. The earthquake shook basketball fans at Haas Pavilion on the University of California's campus in Berkeley, about 13 miles west of the epicenter. The crowd issued a collective "Oooh," as the building briefly shuddered during a timeout in Cal's game against Arizona, then cheered loudly while officials briefly delayed resuming the game.

7:44 a.m. EST

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) -- Angelina Jolie has filed papers to adopt a Vietnamese child, the country's top adoption official said Friday. A U.S. adoption agency representing the 31-year-old actress filed the papers at Vietnam's International Adoption Agency, said Vu Duc Long, the agency's director. Jolie and her partner, Brad Pitt, have three children: 5-year-old son Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old daughter Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May. Long would not name the U.S. adoption agency working with Jolie, who applied to adopt as a single parent. A phone message left with Jolie's Los Angeles-based manager, Geyer Kosinski, wasn't immediately returned. Jolie and Pitt, 43, made a surprise visit to Vietnam at Thanksgiving, when they visited the Tam Binh orphanage, on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City. Their pictures were splashed across the front page of Vietnamese newspapers, showing the couple cruising around Ho Chi Minh City on a motorbike.

7:48 a.m. EST

LONDON (AP) -- The moon will turn shades of amber and crimson Saturday night as it passes behind the Earth's shadow in the first total lunar eclipse in three years. The eclipse will be at least partly visible from Asia to the Americas, although those in Europe, Africa and the Middle East will have the best view. Lunar eclipses occur when Earth passes between the sun and the moon, blocking the sun's light. The event is rare because the moon spends most of its time either above or below the plane of Earth's orbit. "It's not an event that has any scientific value, but it's something everybody can enjoy," said Robert Massey of the Royal Astronomical Society. Earth's shadow will begin moving across the moon at 3:18 p.m. EST Saturday, with the total eclipse occurring at 5:44 p.m. EST and lasting more than an hour. Observers in eastern North America and South America will find the moon already partially or totally eclipsed by the time it rises over the horizon Saturday evening. Alaska, eastern Australia and New Zealand will miss the show altogether. The next total lunar eclipse will occur Aug. 28

9:37 am EST

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A pair of gunmen men posing as prospective buyers of four Yorkshire puppies forced their way into a home and stole the terriers worth \$2,500 each, police said. They also fled with the family's grown terrier. After seeing a newspaper ad, the men made an appointment to see the 8-week-old puppies on the night of Feb. 23 at Kelly Lee's home in Koreatown. When they showed up, she said, she asked them to remove their shoes before entering. One suspect told her they would get slippers from his vehicle, Lee said. When he returned, one pointed a gun at her and three family members. As one man held a gun, the other chased after the puppies scampering around the room and underneath a coffee table, home surveillance video released by police showed. He snatched one of the dogs from Lee's hands. After stuffing the dogs one by one in a plastic garbage bag, the men fled in a silver car, police said. No one was injured.

10:31 a.m. EST

Thousands of South Koreans gathered in Seoul on Saturday, calling on the government to scrap the recently signed free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States. There were no reports of any violent clashes between the protesters and police as of 5 p.m., but the police warned bystanders to exercise caution. Rally organizers had anticipated that over 6,000 people would attend the rally, but the exact count of participants was not yet available. The police had banned the protest rally, citing violent outbursts at previous gatherings and hazards to traffic. "Instead of blocking the anti-FTA rally in advance, the police decided to arrest (those responsible) if the rally gets out of hand," said a police official, asking for anonymity. The protesters, mostly farmers and civic activists, began marching toward the Seoul city hall from Daehangno, a theater district in northern Seoul, shortly before 5 p.m., causing a major traffic jam in the downtown area. A candlelight vigil in front of the city hall is planned for later in the evening, according to the rally organizers.

SECTION TWO

10:49 a.m. EST

NEW YORK (AP) -- In competition for a key Democratic voting bloc, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is enlisting the help of her husband, former President Clinton, at a weekend civil rights commemoration headlined by a formidable black rival, Sen. Barack Obama. Clinton and Obama, the party's top 2008 presidential contenders, will be in Selma, Alabama, Sunday to observe the 42nd anniversary of a civil rights march that helped end racial segregation in the South. Obama is scheduled to deliver the day's keynote address at a Selma church that morning, with Sen. Clinton speaking at another church nearby. But late Thursday, the Clinton campaign announced that the former president would join his wife in a symbolic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where civil rights marchers were beaten by state troopers in 1965. Obama also will participate in the march, along with civil rights activists and others. Bill Clinton also will be inducted that day in the National Voting Rights Hall of Fame -- another high-profile opportunity for the Clintons to grab the spotlight from the charismatic Obama. The joint appearance marks the first time the Clintons have appeared together publicly since she announced her candidacy in January.

11:09 a.m. EST

AMERICUS, Georgia (CNN) -- Search parties were going door-to-door Friday in Americus, Georgia, after deadly storms destroyed the town's Red Cross headquarters and shut down a hospital. Storms spawning tornadoes killed 20 people in three states. The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced it was sending 14 teams to the hardest-hit areas. In Americus, a tornado slammed into the Sumter Regional Hospital, shutting it down as health workers were treating victims coming in from the storm, according to spokesman Buzz Weiss of the state Emergency Management Agency. The patients, none of whom was killed, were transferred to other hospitals, Weiss said. Sumter County Sheriff Pete Smith said two people were killed and at least seven people were critically injured away from the hospital. The twister also destroyed the local headquarters of the Red Cross, its generators and three of its disaster trailers, an official said. As many as 400 homes may have been destroyed, the local Red Cross estimated, and a shelter has been opened at the First Baptist Church. The city will be under a curfew and school was canceled Friday, Smith said.

11:55 a.m. EST

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- Firefighters battled high wind Thursday as a wildfire jumped a fire break and ignited several unoccupied rental cabins and up to 500 acres on a mountain near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, officials said. "There have been no injuries. We have been very fortunate," Nathan Waters, a spokesman for the Tennessee Division of Forestry, said from the fire scene on Cove Mountain, about 35 miles south of Knoxville. About 40 firefighters and foresters from six counties fought flames pushed by winds of up to 50 mph and fueled by dead trees killed by beetles and ice storms. "It has just been a mess," Waters said. "The wind and the slope have been the two major factors." Waters estimated six of 10 unoccupied rental cabins at the top of the mountain burned. At least four families were evacuated from nearby homes.

12:03 p.m. EST

The preparatory committee for the Solidarity for Progress in South Korea held a meeting yesterday in front of the US military base in Ryongsan, Seoul, to denounce the US forces present in South Korea for illegally using the share of defence expenses imposed upon South Korea. Noting that the expenses for the upkeep of the US forces in South Korea last year snowballed 15 times as against 1989, the speakers at the meeting said: The United States is demanding an increased burden for the upkeep of its forces under unreasonable pretexts every year. They condemned the United States for demanding the South Korean authorities disburse much more money this year to cover even the expenses for transferring a US military base, which it should pay, out of the fund for the upkeep of its forces. The South Korean military and the pro-US conservative forces including the Grand National Party are responding to such brigandish demand of the United States, they said, calling upon all the people to turn out in the struggle to thwart the unreasonable demand of the United States for an increased burden for the upkeep of its forces and remove its followers.

SECTION THREE

1:15 p.m. EST

Members of the South Korean All-People Measure Committee for Checking the Expansion of US Military Base in Phyongthaek and peace movement organizations of Japan reportedly held a joint rally in front of the US military base in Ryongsan, Seoul today to denounce the war moves of the United States. Recalling that US troops drove the residents of Phyongthaek out of their nest of living to expand the military base there, members of the measure committee said they were resolutely opposed to the expansion of the US military base in Phyongthaek as it was one menacing peace on the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world. The participants in the rally denounced the US war moves, holding literature denouncing the unjustifiable demand of the US in the issue of the burden share for the upkeep of the US forces in South Korea, its outrageous act related to the environmental recovery at the returned US military base, its moves for the expansion of the US military base in Phyongthaek and crimes committed by US soldiers.