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The visiting president of International Inner Wheel, Beth McNeill, called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. —PID photo

Dhaka iterates solidarity with Palestinians

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated Bangladesh's total solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unstinted support for the realisation of their goals and aspirations, reports BSS.

The government and the people of Bangladesh join me in reiterating total solidarity with the Palestinian people and commitment to support all efforts for the realisation of their inalienable rights, she said in a message on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people yesterday.

Welcoming the peace process initiated with the Madrid conference in 1991 and the autonomy accord in 1994, the prime minister expressed satisfaction at the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

She said Bangladesh expressed grave concern and outrage at the recent violence and killings in the West Bank and

Diarhoea claims

6 in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 28: Diarrhoea claimed six lives in Rajapur and Nalchiti thana of Jhalakathi district during the last two weeks, according to official sources.

According to unofficial sources, eighteen people have died of diarrhoea with more than five hundred people suffering from the disease in Bandalakhi, Indrapasha, Naikata, Siparia, Baria and Kaitakhal villages.

The officials identified the deceased as Siddique Hossein, 24, Imran, 12, Rafela Begum, 32, Baby, 3, of Rajapur Thana while AL Amin, 5, and Liza, 4, of Nalchiti thana.

Mother Teresa improving

CALCUTTA, Nov 28: Doctors treating Mother Teresa were encouraged today that she slept well overnight, but had not yet decided when she would be strong enough to undergo a test that involves puncturing an artery, reports AP.

She is in the process of stabilising, said Sudipta Chakrabarti, a spokesman for Calcutta's Birla Heart Research Pradhan.

Doctors had said the 86-year-old charity leader must be in stable condition for at least 48 hours before they feel it will be safe to perform an angiogram.

Home, sweet home

From Page 1

the village's most famous son, the legendary Marxist who reshaped his adopted home in West Bengal.

Arriving at a cheering reception by thousands, who were kept at a distance from the helipad by a massive security net manned by about 400 armed policemen, Basu walked down the once paved dirt road leading to his ancestral home, 40km off Dhaka.

Wearing the typical black tunic suit Basu declined a ride by a cavalcade of rickshaws kept in waiting for him to spare the trouble for the 81-year-old leader and his entourage that included his home minister, Bishwadev Bhattacharjee and Dr Asim D' Souza the finance minister.

As he strided down the once paved road which took the Basu family from their business residence in Calcutta to the roots back to Basu during school break, Basu presented with a shining ancestral abode, restored by PWD at a cost of Tk 76 lakh.

It wore an off-pink coat, the entrance guarded by a solid gate, the pathway rebuilt with gravel. Everything that the Victorian two-storeyed mansion had was restored, including its walled bath house.

Basu had visited his ancestral home last in 1987 with his wife, son and sister-in-law.

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ECNEC okays 14 projects involving Tk 2587.43 cr

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved 14 development projects involving Tk 2587 crore 43 lakh including Tk 1226 crore 35 lakh in project aid, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting held yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair in the cabinet conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

The approved projects included development of primary education in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna (including Barisal) divisions at a cost of Tk 1078 crore 70 lakh including Tk 844 crore 11 lakh in project aid; development of primary education in Chittagong division at a cost of Tk 252 crore 25 lakh including Tk 218 crore 49 lakh in project aid; food for education programme at a cost of Tk 449 crore 97 lakh; agrobased industries and technology development project at a cost of Tk 168 crore 32 lakh including Tk 42

crore in project aid; rural sanitation project at a cost of Tk 145 crore 92 lakh; introduction of SSC vocational course in selected private high schools in each thana of the country at a cost of Tk 119 crore 79 lakh; establishment of 13 vocational training institutes to introduce SSC and HSC vocational course, and repair and development of existing VTIs at a cost of Tk 69 crore 71 lakh.

Pabna Sugar Mills at a cost of Tk 83 crore 81 lakh including Tk 50 crore 81 lakh in project aid; greater Titas franchise area gas distribution project (phase-3) at a cost of Tk 60 crore 6 lakh; rural development project-5 production-oriented employment project; 5 districts of greater Faridpur (phase-3) at a cost of Tk 38 crore 71 lakh with project aid; rural development project-14 infrastructure, Tangail district (2nd revised) at a cost of Tk 40 crore 33 lakh including Tk 32 crore 23 lakh project aid; Saldanadi oil and gas exploration and appraisal well drilling project at a cost of Tk 27 crore 93 lakh; construction of STAL Birman Bandar at different areas of the country (Khan Jahan Ali Birman Bandar, Bagerhat and Bogra STAL ports) at a cost of Tk 44 crore 29 lakh; and Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), Khulna at a cost of Tk 7 seven crore 64 lakh.

Sit-in in front of Kailashtila Gas Field ends

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 28: The 3-day dawn to dusk sit in programme in front of the Kailashtila Gas Fields ended today. The All-party Action Committee enforced the programme to press its 6-point demand.

Work in all 4 wells remained suspended during the programme.

The demands include setting up fractionation, LPG and Gas Turbine Power Plants, increasing gas supply in Golapganj thana; creating job opportunities for the local people in the Gas Fields and stopping acquisition of private lands in the name of Jalalabad Gas.

At the end of the sit in programme today, a big rally was held at the Bus Terminal at Golapganj with the president of the thana unit of Jatiya Party Osman Harun Chowdhury in the chair. It was also addressed by Thana BNP Secretary Muhius Sunnah Chowdhury Narjis, JP leader, Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Thana Jamaat Ameer Syed Nasir Uddin and secretary Hafiz Najmul Islam, Khelafat Majlis Vice-President Hafiz Moulana Omid Ahmed and secretary Moulana Iqbal Hossain, Thana Mukti Joddha Sangsad Commander Tuta Miah, and leaders of student organisations, labour organisations and social welfare organisations. They said, they were united to realise the legitimate demands.

In observance of the day the local Silver Jubilee Celebration Committee for Victory Day will organise a memorial meeting at Kanainagar Sobhanta High School ground in Baktabali.

Awami League General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman is scheduled to address the meeting as chief guest. Local MP A. K. M. Shamsi Osman and others will take part in the discussion to be chaired by Baktabali Union AL chief Md Ibrahim Pradhan.

The day was not observed in a befitting manner in the past, local people regretted. They demanded that the massacre in Baktabali should be properly recorded in the history of the Liberation War and a memorial should be erected for the 129 martyrs.

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Police said Kamal and Raju were attempting to snatch the passenger near north gate of the Rajarbagh police line at about 4:30 pm.

They chased the two youths and caught them. A case was filed with Motijheel police in this connection.

Police said Kamal is a resident of Shantibagh while Raju of Taltola area. The latter is also an accused of a snatching case filed with Dhanmondi thana.

The election was held today allegedly defying a court order against holding election today on a petition filed by Hafizur Rahman Khasru on behalf of a group of workers.

Two snatchers held in city

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