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Jyoti Basu still there to inspire Left Front

Shailen Dasgupta tells reporters at Workers Party congress

From Shehab Ahmed

Rajshahi, Nov 5: Despite the departure of the patriarch, Jyoti Basu, the Left Front government in West Bengal will survive and gain more as he has not retired from politics. Front Chairman Shailen Dasgupta believes.

"Basu is 87 and had been in politics for about 60 years with 25 years in power, at the helm of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) led government in West Bengal," veteran Marxist Dasgupta told newsmen.

The Left Front chairman, who is here to attend the sixth Congress of the Workers Party of Bangladesh as a special guest, found some time to answer queries on the post-Jyoti Basu era. The longest serving Chief Minister of West Bengal retired on Wednesday.

Dasgupta, himself in the seventies and weak after the journey to Rajshahi from Calcutta by road, talked on the future of the

Use of more surface water suggested

Int'l confce on water and sanitation begins in city

By Staff Correspondent

A five-day international conference began here yesterday with speakers at the inaugural session suggesting more use of surface water to reduce dependence on ground water which is contaminated with arsenic in most areas of the country.

LGDR Minister Zillur Rahman inaugurated the 26th Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) conference as chief guest while Deputy Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury was present as special guest.

The theme of the conference is "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Challenges of the Millennium". About 500 participants including 150 from abroad are attending the conference.

Zillur Rahman said arsenic has been detected in ground water in 59 districts of the country. More than eight thousand

2 employees of rice trading house murdered in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Unidentified assailants killed two employees of a business house at Kamal Bazar under Chandgaon in the city last night, police reports UNB.

It's a great honour and prestige for an individual or unit in the military to uphold the national flag that is a symbol of independence and sovereignty," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the army personnel at a ceremonial parade marking the presentation of the national standards to two battalions of the East Bengal Regiment at Shaheed MR Chowdhury parade ground at the East Bengal Regimental Centre here.

She claimed her government has taken steps which are more effective and timely than in any previous regimes to modernise and fortify the country's armed forces.

We're implementing well-coordinated plans to expand

PM asks army to uphold dignity of nat'l flag

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today called upon the army to uphold the dignity of the national flag, reports UNB.

Underlining the importance of hard training and exercise, the Prime Minister asked the soldiers to improve their skills and excellence through persistent training, practice and acquiring knowledge.

She hoped that soldiers of the 26th and the 27th East Bengal Regiments would remain alert to make any sacrifice for any national cause.

She described the East Bengal Regiment as the main pillar of the Bangladesh army for its contribution to the war of liberation, post-war reconstruction and

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Aida on Shanghai stage



A flame-thrower belches a ball of fire during the spectacular staging of Verdi's Aida in Shanghai on November 3. The performance, which featured a cast of nearly 3,000, is the centerpiece of the city's month-long International Arts Festival. -- AFP photo



Road or a quagmire?

Believe it or not, this road, which looks like a dumping ground, is in the posh area of Gulshan, a hub of reputed multinational companies and diplomatic missions. It is right behind the Concord Tower at Gulshan Circle 2.

Star photo

33 chargesheeted for 'ransacking' court rooms

By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday accepted the charge sheet in a case filed under Public Safety Act (PSA) against 33 people including 20 lawyers.

Sub-inspector Siddique Rahaman filed the case with Kotwali thana on August 22 accusing them of ransacking some court rooms of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, Metropolitan Sessions Judge and Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate on August 20.

The accused brought out a procession on August 20 protesting the killing of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal and ransacked the rooms.

Assistant Commissioner, Nazrul Haq Chowdhury, the investigation officer submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka on Friday after See page 11 col 2

Senior leaders rally behind Sonia

Party delegates chosen from regional units is due to vote on the leadership on November 12.

Prasada's prospects are rated as low in a party that has traditionally been tightly-controlled by the Nehru-Gandhi family, but his criticism of the party has ruffled feathers.

This Prasada gives Sonia a bellyache," a headline in the Times of India said today.

Prasada was a former political secretary to Rajiv Gandhi. Sonia's husband assassinated in 1991, when he was prime minister. He has accused Sonia of surrounding herself with advisers who spend more time in palace intrigues than in party-building work.

But Congress Party bosses say Sonia has held the party together and was transparent in her decision-making.

"She has with single-minded dedication and determination held the party together and encouraged free debate and

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Fresh flood hits vast areas in Satkhira

6 die of diarrhoea

BAGERHAT, Nov 5: Six people died of diarrhoea in Satkhira in last 24 hours while vast areas in three upazilas of the district were flooded afresh, reports UNB.

Locals said some 25 villages in Sadar, Assasuni and Debhaba upazilas were submerged again as part of the embankment at Khatiala point in Sadar upazila washed away.

Gushing water from rivers Sonai and Ichhamoti submerged the villages through a 100-feet breach in the embankment, forcing some 5,000 people to take shelter in flood centres again.

Those who died today were identified as Salma, 8, of Bhomra village, Rahima, 68, of Balkir village and Rokhsana, 12, and Zafar, 4, of Sadar upazila, Rahim, 5, of Tala upazila and Shabana, 11, of Kalaroa upazila.

Over 150 diarrhoea patients were admitted to Satkhira General Hospital and Kalaroa Health Complex in last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee of the four-party opposition alliance organised a rally at Ball Field in Assasuni upazila in the morning where they accused the government of indulging in corruption in distribution of relief

materials.

They demanded proper distribution of relief goods.

Over 1000 flood-hit people brought out a procession in the town today demanding food assistance.

Satkhira DC, Civil Surgeon stand released

BAGERHAT, Nov 5: The Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon of Satkhira were "stand released" today for their failure to conduct relief operations and treatment of the flood victims properly, reports UNB.

Orders from the ministries concerned came to Satkhira today charging DC Abdul Matin Chowdhury with failure to conduct relief activities while Civil Surgeon Mostafa Kamal to ensure treatment of the flood affected people.

Officials said Additional District Magistrate Emdadul Haq was given the charge of DC while Dr M Shahiduzzaman of Satkhira General Hospital of civil surgeon.

Government action against the two came in the wake of widespread criticism of bungling in relief work following devastating floods that hit Satkhira and other frontier districts.

Pay discrimination decried

By Staff Correspondent

Khan, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, who participated in the roundtable.

Member of UN-CEDAW Com-

mittee Salma Khan, economist Rashida Islam Rahman, veteran woman activist Maleka Begum and writer on policy development Hossain Zillur Rahman were among the roundtable participants. Women movement activists at grassroots level also took part in the discussion. Shirin Haq of Naripakka moderated the programme.

"The spirit of great Bengal Renaissance of nineteenth century which flooded the then undivided Bengal has almost van-

ished today. We must recover that spirit for justice, peace and empowerment in every sphere of society," said Maleka Begum.

Salma Khan and Hossain Zillur Rahman stressed on the importance of overall statistical assessment of women with respect to various development indicators like absolute poverty, illiteracy, the sizes of their total workforce and unpaid workforce, women in agriculture and labour sector.

Hossain Zillur Rahman further called for review of legal system including transformation of bail-granting power or FIR activities. See page 11 col 2

45 jailed under PSA for looting landless

RANGPUR, Nov 5: A special court under Public Safety Act today convicted 45 people and sentenced them to 11 years' rigorous imprisonment for attacking houses of landless families and looting their valuables, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, the accused led by Hasmat Mohoni and Haider Ali attacked some 105 houses of landless families at Char Hajipara village in Gangachhara upazila and looted their valuables, destroying the houses on April 17.

After examining 106 witnesses, the judge found 45 people guilty and pronounced the judgement.

Six of the accused were tried in absentia while 35 others acquitted as charges brought against them were not proved.

Clarification

In a clarification on a report headlined 'Massive fraud in supply of hospital equipment' published in The Daily Star on October 19, the Managing Director of Natasta Corporation denied any interaction with the newspaper.



Students of Aliya Madrassah were instructed to vacate their halls of residence following Saturday's skirmishes between two rival factions of the ruling party-backed BCL. -- Star photo

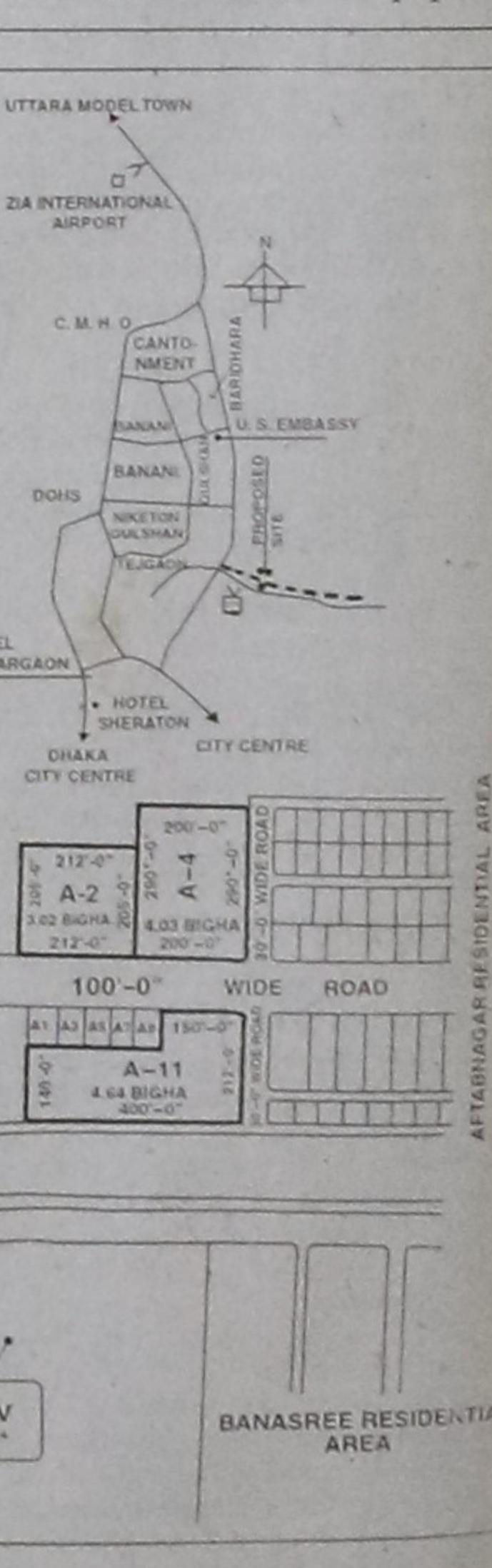
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Large area of developed land in different plots as shown in plot A-2 (3.02 Bigha), A-4 (4.03 Bigha) and A-11(4.64 Bigha) in map, adjacent to BTV, Rampura, Dhaka on 100ft wide road suitable for Medical & Education Institute are for sale.

There is another 9 bigha plot at an attractive location at Tejgaon industrial area also for sale.

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