

**FedEx**  
Federal Express

 Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation  
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

**MOTIJHEEL**

 IBRAHIM CHAMBER  
95, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka  
Tel # 9565114, Fax : 9565112

**BANGSHAL**

 Majed Court, 16/1 Siddique Bazar  
North South Road, Dhaka  
Tel # 9651462

**NARAYANGANJ**

 Sirajuddowla Road, Khanpur  
Narayanganj  
Tel # 9714336

**PHILIPS**  
Let's make things better.

Ideal gift for any occasion

**TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD.**

 Official licensee of Philips Domestic Appliances  
Dhaka : 8115307-10 CTG : 716353, 723578 Khulna : 720304 Bogra : 8215

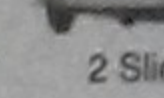
Sandwich Maker



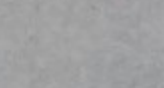
Blender



2 Slice Toaster



Steam Iron



## 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

Front and dynamics of politics in West Bengal vis-a-vis the challenge thrown by Trinamool Congress leader and central railway minister Ms Mamata Banerjee.

Mamota may think Jyoti Basu's departure would benefit her brand of politics. But we think the other way round", Dasgupta said when asked to comment on her remarks on the Marxist patriarch's departure from the Writers Building in Calcutta.

"He (Basu) will stay in politics and serve the party. He struggled within and outside legislative assembly since 1947, setting up a new trend and dynamism in Indian politics", Dasgupta said.

Basu's successor Buddhadev Bhattacharya would build on his fine achievements, he added.

The left leader did not seem worried about rise of what he said religious fundamentalism in India, influence of Rastriya

Sevak Sangha and the like.

"There is influence of religion both on Hindus and Muslims. If religion is combined with religious blindness, it is a dangerous provocation. Criticism on some one's religion is religious fundamentalism. We are trying to resist such trend", Dasgupta said reaffirming the Front's policy.

He also saw no danger from fundamentalists in West Bengal.

On the future of Left front, he said it is now trying to develop an alternative to the Congress and the BJP, uniting progressive and secular forces. "Jyoti Basu is working on it."

Dasgupta, who is visiting Bangladesh for the second time since 1994, hailed from village Beukhir in Jalpaiguri district and migrated to Calcutta in 1940.

He said he is very happy to visit Bangladesh and would like to come again.



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

## Huda, Dalim visited Bangabandhu's house on Aug 14: SPP

Resuming his submissions after a week, special public prosecutor Serajul Haq yesterday said two of the condemned army officers made recce of Bangabandhu's Dhamondil residence on August 14, 1975 afternoon for staging the carnage in a preplanned way, reports UNB.

Major Bazul Huda did the recce at about 5:30 pm while Major Dalim about 4 pm at Bangabandhu's residence the day before killing Bangabandhu, submitted the government counsel before the High Court quoting the deposition by prosecution witness-5 Havildar Abdul Gani.

Browning one of the characters, "Yago," in the book of Shakespeare, prosecution counsel Advocate Serajul Haq said, "In our society there are lot of such characters who show interest in anything without thinking of its effect or impact."

"I think Qaddus was such type of character," Advocate Serajul Haq commented to dispel the defence doubts.

Statement of PW-4 who was the most important witness to the massacre, Advocate Serajul Haq submitted, was corroborated by PW-1, 2, 5, 6 and 50.

Havildar Qaddus said in his deposition that Major Huda killed Sheikh Kamal and Bangabandhu. Havildar Abdul Gani, prosecution witness-5, corroborated him. Gani identified Huda as the Huda who was his boss in Comilla Cantonment as adjutant in first field artillery.

Quoting the statement of Havildar Gani, Advocate Serajul Haq said entering the Bangabandhu

of Qaddus was like accomplices to the killers as he saw every killing in both floors as per his statement.

The death reference bench of Bangabandhu trial comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Haq yesterday questioned about the curiosity of PW-4 Havildar Qaddus as he witnessed all the killings.

Browning one of the characters, "Yago," in the book of Shakespeare, prosecution counsel Advocate Serajul Haq said, "In our society there are lot of such characters who show interest in anything without thinking of its effect or impact."

"I think Qaddus was such type of character," Advocate Serajul Haq commented to dispel the defence doubts.

Statement of PW-4 who was the most important witness to the massacre, Advocate Serajul Haq submitted, was corroborated by PW-1, 2, 5, 6 and 50.

Havildar Qaddus said in his deposition that Major Huda killed Sheikh Kamal and Bangabandhu. Havildar Abdul Gani, prosecution witness-5, corroborated him. Gani identified Huda as the Huda who was his boss in Comilla Cantonment as adjutant in first field artillery.

Quoting the statement of Havildar Gani, Advocate Serajul Haq said entering the Bangabandhu

See page 11 col 2

## 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.

LGD Minister Zillur Rahman inaugurated the 26th Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) conference as chief guest while Deputy Minister Sabir 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

arsenic victims have been identified so far and about two crore people are exposed to it, he added.

Termining the arsenic problem as a national problem, Zillur Rahman said, "It is not possible for any individual or organization to solve it". He urged all organizations and individuals to work jointly to solve the problem as early as possible.

He also called for more research to develop methods for use of rain water as an alternative source.

In his key-note paper Sabir Hossain Chowdhury said providing water and sanitation facilities to the rapidly growing population of the country has become another challenge.

UNICEF representative Colin Davis said, "We need to ensure 100 per cent access to sanitary

facilities, all having proper hygienic facilities and safe water."

Referring to arsenic problem, he hoped that participants from abroad would learn from Bangladesh's experience.

Among others, Kamrul Islam Siddique, Secretary of Housing and Public Works Ministry and Chairman of Bangladesh Water Partnership and Prof M Ferroz Ahmed of BUET also spoke at the inaugural session.

Twenty-six papers were presented at the two sessions on water resources, community management and participation and water quality and treatment.

WEDC, an institute of Loughborough University, UK has been holding the international conference in different countries for the last 25 years.

## 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 thana in the city last night, police said.

Police recovered the bodies of manager Nepal Babu, 60, and employee Ahmed Nabil, 40, from inside the rice trading house this morning.

Both the bodies bore marks stab injury, police said.

Police suspected that the victims were strangled after being stabbed.

The bodies were sent for autopsy.

The assailants also looted Taka 33,000 in cash from the cash box and the back door of the rice trading house was found broken, police said.

## 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.

"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

manpower and strength of the armed forces and to enhance their professional standards, excellence and welfare."

Hasina, who is also in charge of the Defence Ministry, said through long struggle democracy was restored. People's right to vote was returned to the people.

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

See page 11 col 3

## 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 Rahman 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

NEW DELHI, Nov 5: Leaders of India's main opposition Congress Party have closed ranks behind Italian-born Sonia Gandhi in her bid for a second term as party chief, a party official said today, reports Reuters.

Sonia, from India's celebrated Nehru-Gandhi family, faces an expected leadership challenge from Jijendra Prasad, a former Congress Party vice president who said the country's oldest political grouping was in deep trouble and needed an overhaul.

All 24 members of the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, except Prasad, signed a statement endorsing Sonia's candidature, the party official said.

"We the undersigned members of the CWC wholeheartedly support the candidature of Sonia Gandhi and request our colleagues in the electoral college to do so," the official quoted a party statement as saying.

An electoral college of Congress

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

Prasad'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 Prasad gives Sonia a bellyache," a headline in the Times of India said today.

Prasad 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

See page 11 col 1

## 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 Debhata upazilas were submerged again as part of the embankment at Khaitala 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 Balkari 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.



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

## 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 Hasrat 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 Natasa Corporation denied any interaction with the newspaper.

## LAND FOR SALE

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 &amp; Education institute are for sale.

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

Interested parties may contact the following address:

 N. Nowaz Chowdhury  
Operative Director  
Eastern Housing Ltd. (3rd floor)  
125/A Motijheel C/A, Dhaka - 1000  
Phone : 9566354, 9566303-5 Fax : 880-2-9566311

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News &amp; Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966. Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR. DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

## 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