



Jyoti Basu hospitalised

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Kolkata

Veteran Marxist leader Jyoti Basu was admitted to the intensive care unit of a hospital here yesterday with chest infection as attending doctors said his condition was stable.

The 95-year-old former chief minister of West Bengal was earlier closely examined at his Indira Bhavan residence at Salt Lake by a four-member team of doctors, headed by his personal physician AK Maity, who finally decided to admit him to AMRI hospital for a thorough treatment for his bronchial congestion.

Basu's personal aide said that the Marxist veteran's other health parameters were okay.

Doctors said Basu was taken into the ICCU and an X-ray was conducted on his chest.

"Basu's treatment will start shortly and his breathing problem is not that acute," said one of his doctors Trishit Roy.

He said the doctors considered it was 'high time' for Basu to be shifted to hospital for thorough treatment of his chest infection.

Basu was last admitted to a hospital on July 12 after he fainted at his residence following breathing problem.



PHOTO: AFP This file picture taken on January 13, 2009 shows a healthy Tasmanian devil Joey displayed at Taronga Zoo in Sydney.

Hopes in the air to save Tasmanian devils

AFP, Sydney

Australian researchers have cracked the genetic origin of the deadly cancer that is threatening to wipe out Tasmanian devils, raising hopes Friday that the animal's future is safe.

Australian National University scientists said they have unlocked the genetic "fingerprint" of the contagious cancer, which starves the dark, furry marsupial to death by disfiguring its face so badly it cannot eat.

"It's a uniquely horrible cancer, and it is critical to know about it at the genetic level," Professor Jenny Graves said.

UN moving a fourth of its foreign staff out of Pakistan

ANI, AFP, New York

The United Nations has decided to move a quarter of its international staff (60 employees) out of Pakistan over fears of security concerns for at least six months.

The decision, which does not apply to the organisation's 2,700 Pakistani employees, will be re-evaluated in three months, according to a UN official. Improvements in the country's security could shorten the relocation.

The move is the latest sign of foreigners' fears raised by intensified terrorist attacks in recent months throughout the country, including in better-guarded interior areas like the garrison city of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, The News York Times reported.

Militants based in northwestern Pakistan have escalated their attacks in retaliation for a Pakistani military offensive in the South Waziristan tribal area that began this fall.

Two months ago, the United Nations said it was withdrawing international workers from northwestern Pakistan.

The presence of Western organisations in Islamabad has already declined significantly,

and most diplomats and aid workers no longer venture out freely even in the tightly controlled capital.

The decision follows a very difficult year in Pakistan for the United Nations.

The move applied to UN international staff working on long-term development programmes but did not affect humanitarian workers. UN officials were unable to specify the numbers of personnel involved.

And in October, WFP temporarily closed distribution centres serving more than two million people in the northwest because of security fears.

The closure, affecting the Swat region where Pakistan waged a blistering assault against Taliban fighters earlier this year, followed a suicide bombing of the WFP compound in Islamabad that killed five aid workers.

Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked extremists have carried out a two-year campaign of attacks in Pakistan that has killed more than 2,000 people.

Haq said the United Nations had conducted a review to determine how it could operate more effectively and safely in responding to the most urgent needs of Pakistan and its people.



PHOTO: AFP Pakistani Shia Muslims shout slogans during a protest in Karachi yesterday against the suicide bomb attack on their Ashura procession. The financial hub has been largely spared the bloodshed, although the December 28, 2009 bombing of a Shia religious procession killing 43 people in the city of 14 million people raised fears that it was again in the militant's sights.

Kabul demands foreign 'killers' to be handed over

More civilians killed in Afghan airstrikes

AFP, AP, Kabul

The Afghan government demanded Thursday to take into its custody foreigners wanted over the alleged killing of 10 civilians, sharply escalating a war of words with its powerful Western military backers.

The National Security Council (NSC) made the demand at talks chaired by President Hamid Karzai, who has been vocal in condemning international forces he believes are responsible for the incident last Saturday in the eastern flashpoint of Kunar.

"The meeting of the National

Security Council demanded that those responsible for the deaths of those innocent youths must be handed over to the Afghan government," a statement from Karzai's office said.

An airstrike by international forces in the southern Afghan province of Helmand killed seven civilians, two Taliban and wounded another civilian, an Afghan official said Friday.

Dawud Ahmadi, spokesman for the provincial governor, said the attack took place Wednesday after an international patrol came under fire from insurgents and called for air support. Nato said it was

aware of the reports and was investigating.

It is the second claim of civilian deaths in allied attacks in a week. The Afghan government says that 10 people were killed, including eight school-children, in a village in eastern Kunar province in a nighttime raid by international forces last weekend.

Nato said Thursday it was investigating the incident.

Sensitivities about civilian casualties allegedly caused by Nato or US-led operations have driven a wedge between Karzai and his Western military allies who help keep his fragile government in power.

Telangana state to be a reality in 2010

Says TRS chief

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hyderabad

Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) chief K Chandrasekhara Rao is confident that Telangana state would be a reality in 2010.

Talking to reporters here Thursday, Rao appealed to people of Andhra and Rayalaseema regions to bid adieu to 2009 by parting friends.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, also advised leaders of the two regions not to create unnecessary hurdles in the formation of Telangana state.

India's 'hostile intent' won't help resolve issues in region: Pakistan

ANI, Islamabad

Reiterating its concerns over the alleged interference of India in Pakistan through Afghanistan, Pakistan Foreign Office has said that the situation in the region cannot improve unless New Delhi stops its covert activities.

Addressing a press conference here, Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit said Pakistan wants stability in the region, but is concerned about India's involvement in its internal affairs.

"We hope that our concerns (regarding Indian interference) will be taken seriously because we do not want this region to destabilise. Should this interference continue, I am afraid things will not improve," The Daily Times quoted Basit, as saying.

Commenting on the long pending Kashmir issue, Basit rebuffed reports about any back-channel diplomacy with India over the issue, and blamed India of not having the intent to resolve the issue.

"We do not see sincerity on India's part to resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions," Basit said.

"The ball is now in India's court. Pakistan will, on its part, continue making sincere efforts towards resolving all bilateral issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, with a view to attaining viable and lasting peace in South Asia," he added.

Pakistan hosts most expensive cabinet meet while observing austerity

ANI, Islamabad

Pakistan hosted its most expensive federal cabinet meeting when a Navy ship was anchored near Gwadar Port which is estimated to have cost the taxpayers over Rs.5 million, after the PPP-led Government decided to follow austerity measures.

It was held just 10 days after the government had approved austerity measures to reduce its expenditure.

"This indicates how seriously Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and members of his cabinet take their own decisions and how they are going to give up their elitist lifestyle," said a senior official of the Ministry of Finance.

From electrician to painter

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chair with a brush between his lips.

Rural life and its scenic beauty come alive with each stroke of his brush. Mostly his village home Chakkeshar under Manda upazila of Naogaon where he was born and brought up comes up vividly in his paintings.

Many of his paintings are now being used in greeting cards and calendars of Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar, his abode now.

Maimed Imdadul who once used to install transformers of Rural Electrification Board (REB) (REB) desires to produce paintings of high artistic value that will bring him both fame and money to regain his self-esteem.

Talking to The Daily Star at CRP Imdadul said, "I visualise the scenes and things what I used to see before being maimed and try to depict those in my paintings. I hope within a year I will be able to earn my livelihood as my works are being valued commercially recently."

Coordinator Ramesh Halder of Vocational Training Centre of CRP said, "Imdadul is doing well in painting. Some of his paint-

ings have already been used in preparing desktop calendars and greeting cards."

Imdadul and his elderly mother Sofia Begum who has to attend him constantly reside at a tiny room of CRP hospital in Savar.

Back in 2005 Imdadul used to install transformers of Rural Electrification Board (REB) at Birul upazila of Dinajpur under sub-contractor Mohammad Habib.

Imdadul said, "My colleagues Hafiz and Mizan were senior to me in service but I excelled them in expertise and my salary was hiked as a reward much to the resentment of my colleagues."

Imdadul who left education after passing SSC examination due to extreme poverty narrated the fateful day of December 15 in 2005 when his envious colleagues treacherously put his life at risk sending him up a ladder that leads to the lives wires saying that they put off the line.

As soon as he reached the top of the ladder and touched one of the wires he was tossed to the ground. Later he found himself lying on a bed of Dinajpur Sadar Hospital in the afternoon with

burn injuries and his left hand twisted and mangled. In the evening he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where both his hands were severed from his shoulders.

"Mizan and sub-contractor Habib took me to DMCH and got me admitted there with a fake name Ibrahim and fake address of Kashinathpur in Pabna so that I could not claim compensation or file cases against the culprits," he said.

They left the hospital leaving him alone and later during his 13-day stay at the hospital, his day labourer brother and elderly mother looked after him. They had to sell their lone piece of land in the village to bear the medical expenses.

After release from the hospital he was admitted to the Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralyzed (CRP) on January 5 in 2006 and since then his mother and he have been staying there, he added.

His elderly mother Sofia said, "After much hardships over the years when the gods were about to smile on me just then my son got crippled. We are now passing our days like prisoners in this tiny room."

Widow Sofia said she had to sell even her cows and gold ornaments to support his crippled son and now another son Shahid, lone earning member of the family, bear all expenses.

Maimed Imdadul faced double blow

Imdadul said he faced double blow as a tout named Nur Hakim in guise of human activists appeared before him a few days after the incident and took money from his mother saying that his human organisation "Organization of Social Environment and Human Rights Implementation" located at Karwan Bazar supports such victims like Imdadul and help victims realise compensation from the culprits and bring culprits to book.

Sofia said she gave Nur Kakim Tk 10,000, which she took as a loan from an NGO and one of her brothers. Hakim said the money is needed to file a case against the culprits.

When contacted Hakim denied the allegation and told The Daily Star that he received Tk 2000 from Sofia as fuel cost for his private car as he had to go to Naogaon to file the case and meet Habib in Dinajpur.

Job Openings—Senior Public Finance Economist

The Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) program is a four-year program funded by USAID and implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. The project objective is to promote principles of accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to decrease the level of corruption in Bangladesh. PROGATI is seeking highly qualified and motivated persons to apply for the post of Senior Public Finance Economist. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

A major area of PROGATI work is to strengthen oversight of public expenditures to make national budget processes more transparent and accountable. The Senior Public Finance Economist will have the following responsibilities:

- Supervise and mentor Budget Analysts to produce high quality research reports;
- Provide overall technical oversight and quality assurance for macro fiscal research conducted by PROGATI project;
- Design and conduct research projects on key issues related to budget analysis, public expenditures and economic policy;
- Design and implement seminars, roundtables and training on macro fiscal issues;
- Manage work of grantees and subcontractors providing services to PROGATI; and
- Build and strengthen relations with Parliament, Ministry of Finance, research institutions and civil society organizations working on analysis of national budget.

Required qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in Finance, Economics, Public Policy or related fields;
- Minimum 15 years professional experience researching public expenditures, public policy, or related fields;
- Demonstrated track record of publications on issues related to budget analysis, public expenditures and economic policy;
- Strong project management and supervision skills;
- Strong interpersonal and presentation skills; and
- Strong communication skills in English and Bangla (reading, writing and speaking).

Interested and qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, CV and 3 references to proгатijob@yahoo.com by 10 January 2010. All candidates will be reviewed but only finalists will be notified. No phone calls or in-person applications will be accepted. Please reference the job title in the subject line.

এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
(বাংলাদেশ ইস্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশন এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
২৬৫-২৬৭, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর

টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী / প্রস্তুতকারক / সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত মালামাল সরবরাহের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে :

টেন্ডার নম্বর ও তারিখ	মালামালের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	জামানতের টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার বাস্তব বন্ধ এবং খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১। এবিএল/ক্রয়/২৩৯/০৯ তারিখ ২৭-১২-০৯ খ্রি:	ব্যটারী চালিত গ্রী ছইলার ভেরীর মাল্যাকাল : (বিভিন্ন প্রকার ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ও মেকানিক্যাল আইটেম)	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১% হারে।	প্রতিসেট ৫০০/= টাকা।	১৮-০১-২০১০খ্রি তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০ মিনিটে বন্ধ এবং একই দিন দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।
২। এবিএল/ক্রয়/২৪০/০৯ তারিখ ৩০-১২-০৯ খ্রি:	মটরসাইকেল আরোহীর জন্য হেলমেট (উন্নতমানের, নমুনা মোতাবেক)	২০০০টি	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১% হারে।	প্রতিসেট ২০০/= টাকা।	১৮-০১-২০১০খ্রি তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০ মিনিটে বন্ধ এবং একই দিন দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।

১। এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা এবং বাংলাদেশ ইস্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশন, "বিএসইসি ভবন", ১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এডিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এর হিসাব বিভাগের ক্যাশ শাখা হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ খোল্য টেন্ডার সিডিউল উন্মুক্ত করা যাইবে।

২। টেন্ডার খোলার দিন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

৩। এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এবং বাংলাদেশ ইস্পাত ও প্রকৌশল কর্পোরেশন এর ক্রয় বিভাগে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দরপত্র ফেলিতে হইবে এবং দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উপরে উল্লিখিত সময়ে টেন্ডার বাস্তব খোলা হইবে।

৪। অনিবার্য কারণ বশত: টেন্ডার প্রবেশের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উন্মুক্ত অফিসে টেন্ডার প্রবেশ ও খোলা হইবে।

৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(কাজী ফারুকজামান)
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