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created congestion inside the

port sheds due to suspension of

delivery of cargo from port, he

observed work abstention pro-

grammes at Chittagong port for

four hours on August 10 and six

hours on August 26 protesting

the installation of private con-

tainer terminals by a foreign

consortium Stevedoring Ser-

rive annually at Chittagong

port that handles more than 10

million metric tons of cargo ev-

meeting of the Chittagong Port

Authority today decided to give

top priority to unloading food

from the vessels for next two

officials also decided to clear

the congestion of cargo at the

Islam was present at the meet-

ing, held at the CPA Rest House.

to provide berthing facilities on

priority basis and said if neces-

sary, help of the security forces

will be sought.

The meeting of senior CPA

Shipping Secretary Saiful

The meeting further decided

ery year, port sources said.

months, according to UNB.

Over 1200 cargo vessels ar-

Meanwhile, a high level

vices of America (SSA).

Port workers and employees

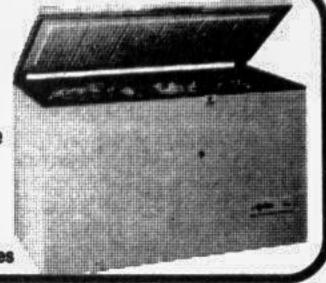
Whirlpoo

Refrigerator & Freezer

Instalment facility available

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

CF50T - 478 Litres



— Star photo yesterday.

Nothing can be nobler than this for beginning a retired life. Dr Hugh Carpenter, outgoing life' from the first day of his re-

'Bengal Overland' — a long drive on 'Discovery', a Land Rover jeep, from Dhaka to London to-

Bangladesh.

An amount of Tk two lakh has already been raised through

tional Press Club yesterday. Two of his colleagues, John Baroi, a doctor and Fazal Ahmed Barek, a motor mechanic at the embassy, will join him in the 13,220-km expedition through the Silk Route.

Of the set target of fund, Tk two lakh has already been raised from Bangladesh as sponsor-money of 31 scooters. which would be standing-by to bid farewell to Carpenter's Land

British High Commission at

A retired doctor's noble venture

By Staff Correspondent

Baridhara. They will drive across 16 countries of Asia and Europe in 61 days to reach London on October 31

British High Commissioner David Walker will drive his flag car to lead the escort motorcade including 31 autorickshaw, sponsored by the British Women's Association (BWA), from Baridhara to some kilometres on the New Airport Road.

"Tomorrow (Tuesday) is the first day of my retired life and it seems to me like beginning of a new life," Dr Carpenter said. He said he will write a book

on the journey and make a documentary film on children of different countries, proceeds from which will also go to the funds of 'Save The Children'. Dr Carpenter, who worked as

a doctor in the High Commission since March 1995, has already made a documentary on working school-going children at Sreepur village in Gazipur. Alison Jennings, Clinical

Nurse at the British High Commission and representative of British Women's Association, Jon P Geddes, Second Secretary and Shaikat Rushdee Haque, Press and Public Affairs

Rizwan Bin Farouq focussed

on the emerging digital econ-

omy and said that at present the

western countries dominated

building of computer system ar-

chitecture while eastern coun-

tries like India were playing a

significant role in software

programming and coding

cus on. Bangladesh should aim

at programming and coding," he

economy, Rizwan said that

there would be recession in the

west and other powerful econo-

mies in the next two years. "But

afterwards, total digitisation of

markets through networking

would eliminate middlemen

and economies will boom. Sales

will shoot higher. Therefore, we

should also keep this in our

importance of nurturing vi-

sions for the future. "Things are

changing fast in the recent

years. Old success formula is no

longer working now. Old strate-

gies should go. The IT industries

have changed them all. In order

to take advantage of the infor-

mation age, we must nurture vi-

Nazrul Jamil stressed net

Habibullah Karim said that

there had been moves to develop

the human resources sector

dramatically. Recently, the

government agreed to increase

student seats to 1000 from 300

in all government and privately

owned computer education in-

also undergoing change in a

positive direction," he said.

"Telecommunication is very

important to software indus-

tries and the government has

agreed to provide higher band-

width to computer service com-

panies. The enhanced band-

width will allow data transfer

of 2 Megabyte this year and 4

check software piracy, a bill

will be placed soon in the par-

industrial and scientific revo-

lutions in the past. It cannot af-

ford to miss the IT revolution,"

Karim said "In order to

"Bangladesh has missed the

Megabyte the next year."

"The computer curriculum is

sions and forget the old rules."

working the business and insti-

tutions in the country.

stitutions.

liament"

he noted.

Aftab ul Islam stressed the

minds for future.

"This is where we should fo-

Focussing on the global

Computer training

were also present at the news conference. Jon Geddes and some others will escort Dr Carpenter's 'Discovery' up to the Indian border. Dr Carpenter will go to

Officer of the High Commission

Kathmandu first. Then via 'Friendship Highway', they will cross the Himalayas to reach Tibet. "Going north to central China and then through the Gobi desert, we hope to find Kazakstan. Central Asia lies ahead, the Caspian Sea and the Volga are on the distant shore. We shall follow the river to Volgogard, then go west to Kiev, north to Poland and then to Berlin and Britain.

He said, his colleagues -Baroi and Fazal - will undergo a one-month training programme at Land Rover's plant in Birmingham. Thereafter, they will be provided with free tickets by British Airways to come back to Bangladesh.

The humanitarian doctor looked enthusiastic when he said, "My wife Eleanor and all five children except one, who stays in Australia, will be waiting at Old Kent for a happy re-

inquiry commission report by 10 more days, an official handout said last night. The one-member commission headed by Justice Habibur Rahman was formed to probe the murder case of Shamim Zia murder case Reza Rubel, a BBA student of the Independent University in de-

> tody on July 23. The handout said the time was extended following request from the commission.

tective branch (DB) police cus-

Highway flooded From Page 1

two hours to drive through the single-lane highway to reach Gabtoli from Aricha, but since flood inundated the highway at different points, buses have to wait in a queue for hours," said a bus driver.

A passenger from Faridpur said, "the bus I was traveling in waited in a long queue for nearly two hours at Savar where the flood water partially submerged the highway.

Hundreds of passenger buses have to slow down due to the flood water. "Keeping up with the normal departure time is very difficult now. Timings have changed," Ananda Paribahan's Ramijuddin told this correspondent yesterday.

"Normally, we make about Tk 70,000 a day but since the flood business has plunged beyond expectation.

Till the filing of this report many buses were stranded in a long queue at Savar and other

Congestion at Ctg port

Foreign cargo vessels pay demurrage for overstay

From Nurul Alam

added.

CHITTAGONG, Aug 31 Chittagong port is facing a conges-tion triggered by 'traffic-jam' of foreign cargo vessels both at its jetties and outer anchorage. port sources said.

The congestion has forced the foreign cargo vessels to pay huge demurrage because of overstay at this port, shipping circles and port sources in-

Every ship is now required to stay here for 10 to 15 days instead of usual five to six days. they said.

Around 50 ships are now staying inside the jetties, moorings and at the outer anchorage of the port for loading and unloading of cargo, port sources

A senior official of Chittagong port attributed the congestion to dislocation in cargo handling at the jetties due to monsoon rains and recent work abstention programmes of port workers and employees.

"For the last two months the port is experiencing disruption in cargo handling operations during rainfall," he added

On the other hand, the transport strike observed by transport workers last week

Queen Elizabeth

concerned at flood

in Bangladesh

has expressed her deep concern

at the dreadful flood in Bangla-

desh that is causing much

dent Shahabuddin Ahmed ves-

terday, the Queen conveyed her

deep sympathy to the govern-

ment and the people of Bangla

desh, especially to the bereaved

Rubel murder

From Page 1

4:00 pm on August 10 while on

has further extended the time

for submission of the judicial

BSS adds: The government

police remand, he said.

In a message, sent to Presi-

distress, reports UNB.

and suffering.

Queen Elizabeth II of Britain

5th day of siege Shibir damages another Ctg varsity bus

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG Aug 31: Activists of Islami Chhatra Shibii (ICS) this morning damaged another bus of Chittagong University during its siege programme.

Meanwhile, classes were held partially and offices of the administrative building remained open today, the fifth day of Shibir's siege pro-gramme.

In the morning, Shibir activists stopped a Chittagongbound teachers' bus near the Oxygen Crossing and attacked the driver. Shibir activists earlier damaged four buses of Chittagong University teachers' during their siege programme.

They also forced the university-bound shuttle train to stop near Jhawtala station and snatched away key of the vehicle at around 7:30 am. Later, all buses and shuttle train plied between the campus and the town under tight police security.

Earlier, Shibir extended their siege programme till September 4.

Magura is free from illiteracy

MAGURA, Aug 31: Entire population of the district are now free from the curse of illit eracy after completion of a 6month-long literacy drive today, reports UNB.

A total of 200,100 illiterate people were given preliminary knowledge of reading and writing through 6,670 mass education centres in four thanas under "Total Literacy Movement (TLM) of Bikoshito Magura Pro-

Of them, 92,820 were male and 1.07,280 female.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nuruzzaman Khan told UNB that the formal announcement of illiteracy-free Magura is likely to come from a public meeting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Septem-

The TLM was inaugurated on

Not only crops, houses and

the body. None was arrested in con-

Shawkat Ali said the country is in serious need of all kinds of seeds including rice and vegmorgue for autopsy.

Lalbagh thana accusing unidentified assailants in this regard The Finance Minister also

From Page 1

the scene, she said. She then met Shipon and told him what had happened

Tania said. Tania noted that a few days later she recorded a statement with a magistrate. Tania also

court.

mother. The next date for hearing of the case has been fixed on September 9.

Masterminds of Aug 15 plot staged a fake night exercise: SPP.

The masterminds of the August plot had hoodwinked the ordinary soldiers and staged a fake night exercise to execute their dastardly scheme on the fateful night of August 15, 1975.

This was stated by Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Advocate Serajul Huq when he resumed his argument for the eighth day yesterday at the Court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in the Bangabandhu murder case, report agencies.

Conspiracy to kill Bangabandhu and topple his government was made in the guise of conferences at four places - one at BARD, two at Daudkandi in

Comilla, and another at Salna in Gazipur. These conferences were the nucleus of the conspiracy hatched by some military offi-

cers with Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, said Special Pub-

lic Prosecutor Serajul Huq citing the evidence of cross-examinations of the witnesses. "Conferences were nothing

but camouflage," he said. Citing evidence, Huq said some military officers - Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Maj Syed Farooqur Rahman, Maj Shahriyar Rashid Khan and others - had attended the conference at Daudkandi and met Mushtaque at BARD.

He questioned the necessity of the presence of those military personnel in those confer-

"We smell something unusual, leading us to believe some sort of conspiracy was being discussed," the SPP told the court adding that prima facie it would appear there was a conspiracy.

Elaborating the conspiracy and how it was executed, he said the army officers had incited

the innocent soldiers by giving false statements and information to bring them in their fold to go for the operation to kill Bangabandhu.

the soldiers with court martial if anyone failed to obey the or-ders, Huq said quoting wit-

He further quoted different witnesses and said accused Farooq Rahman had incited and persuaded the ordinary soldiers by saying "Sheikh Mujib will declare monarchy in the country from a meeting at Dhaka University tomorrow (August 15, 1975). We can't support monarchy and we will have to stop it. From now on, you will have to listen to what I say

He quoted a witness saying that Maj Rashid told the troops at a briefing that "Dignity of our mothers and sisters can no See page 11

NGO activists protest

From Page 1

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone late last night from his hotel room. Navarretti acknowledged that a company "Monsanto Bangladesh", has been registered in the country but, assured that Monsanto would not bring in any 'biotechnology' here. When asked about the

demonstration. Navarretti said, "I am not aware of it. We're doing nothing wrong. Why people will demonstrate. Our products like Rounup — a good herbicide - is being marketted in Bangladesh for years through local agents". He, however, declined to give the name of Monsanto's local agents.

santo was going for a joint venture with any local company or NGO, Navarretti said, "We're a private company and not bound to reveal everything to press" He, however, added that "We're assessing the environment in Bangladesh and having dialogues with people concerned". AZM Obaidullah Khan, a

Khaleda

that BNP is the only symbol of nationalist force in the coun-

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury. Abdus Salam Talukdar Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Khandokar Mosharraf Hossain. Mayedul Islam, Matiur Rahman, Barrister Aminul Haq, Begum Khurshid Jahan, Anwar Zahid, Mizanur Rahman Minu.

Night guard From Page 1

taken away from the firm, Sonar Bangla Traders, police According to police, the owner and other employees the

When a number of the employees returned for work at around 7 am yesterday morning, they found the entrance

They started knocking the door for quite a long time but none responded from inside. When one of the employees looked inside the guard room through the window, he saw

nection with the killing till filing of this report last night. They body was sent to Dhaka

yesterday.

Then, some local people took her to a hospital. Later, she was shifted to another hospital.

identified her clothes in the

"Sir, I want to go back to my

and dysentery, he said.

PM: Umrah From Page 1

giving the nation courage and fortitude to face the devastating floods. She also prayed for the country's continued peace, progress and prosperity. Another report from Madina

adds, Hasina today performed ziarat at the holy Raoza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and offered Johr and Asr prayers at Masjide-Nababi Hasina offered fateha and munajat at the Raoza Mubarak

of Prophet Muhammad (SM) and also mazars of Hazrat Abu Bakar (RA) and Hazrat Omar

The prime minister also offered prayer and special munajat at Raojatul Reajeel Janna.

In the afternoon, she went to the Masjid-e-Kuba, the first mosque constructed by Hazrat Muhammad (SM) in Madina.

The prime minister returned to Jeddah in the afternoon. She is scheduled to leave Jeddah mid-tonight for home.

Alleged snatcher beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was beaten to death by a mob suspecting him to be a snatcher at Jurain under Demra thana in the city yester-

Police identified the dead as Selim, 25, a resident of Dharka Road in Sutrapur thana area. It could not be known immediately how Selim came un-

der mob attack. Besides, police

were yet to ascertain whether Selim attempted to rob anyone. Police said the mob started beating Selim at Balurmath at about 12:30 pm. Being informed, police rushed to the

spot and rescued him in a fa-

tally injured condition. Selim was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to injuries at about 5:30 pm. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night. Demra police were preparing to file a case in this regard.

Duty cut From Page 1

also decided to begin an open market sale (OMS) of rice soon after the recession of flood waters, sources said. Talking to The Daily Star

last night. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury expressed the hope that even if the flood waters recede by the end of September, peasants will be able to cultivate transplanted Aman.

During a visit to some kitchen markets in the city yesterday this correspondent found that price of onion rose to Tk 28 per kg from Tk 24 in two weeks. Retailers said that prices of almost all vegetables except potato and papaya rose due to the floods.

Prices of different varieties of rice also rose by Tk 15 to 30 per maund over the period. Liagat Ali, a retailer at a

Dhaka City Corporation market near Farmgate said the price rise was due to "panic buying" by people. Prices may go up further with the recession of flood waters if the OMS programme is not started immediately, he observed.

Bashirullah, owner of a shop at Mohammadpur Krishi Market, one of the biggest rice wholesale markets in the city also agreed that OMS would help restrict the upward trend in the price.

Prafulla Kumar, a salesman at another wholesale shop, said that prices of rice would largely depend on the volume of assistance from foreign countries. Some moneyed-men in the

countryside are stocking rice in the hope of 'big profit' and middle-class consumers in the capital have started panic buying fearing uncertainty, observed Razu Ahmed, another salesman.

Dr Carpenter standing beside the Land Rover jeep in front of the Jatiya Press Club

doctor of the British High Commission here, begins a 'new tirement, raising funds for distressed children. He begins with a venture —

He has set a target to raise 50,000 pound sterling (over Tk 38 lakh) for 'Save The Children' a British charity operating in many countries including

contributions by different companies and individuals in Bangladesh, Dr Carpenter said at a press conference at the Na-

sponsored by the British Air.

Rover today. Dr Carpenter, aged 61, will begin his ambitious venture at 10 am today from in front of the

administrators, graphics, multi-media and web-page designers and such others. "Anyone having skills in programmes like C++, Java, Visual Basic, Oracle, Paradox, Developer 2000 etc, can easily

From Page 1

avail a good job in the west now," he said "The job market is very flexible here. One can go abroad to get these jobs or just sit home, apply through e-mails and work from Bangladesh Some people are already doing

foreign jobs from here," Swapan noted. "But our problem is there is a tremendous crisis of skilled human resources in the information technology (IT) sector, he said. "Right now we should concentrate on building the

human resources first.

JU students From Page atabadi Chhatra Dal barricaded the Highway near Radio Colony

demanding punishment of the rapists. Addressing a rally later, local MP Dewan Mohammad Salauddin gave an ultimatum to JU authorities to punish the 'culprits' by Thursday or face 'tougher agitations' from

Central GCO leaders called

on VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed

September 5.

yesterday and demanded exemplary punishment to the Meanwhile, no classes were held at the university on the first day of the teachers' fourday class boycott programme yesterday. The teachers started the boycott as they said, the

authorities failed to punish

those who assaulted a teacher of

the university even a week after the incident. Besides, Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) yesterday expressed concern that "no action is taken against some students involved in repression on female students of Jahangirnagar

university." "It is entirely undesirable that some quarters are trying to cover up the whole thing," the SNS said in a statement

The SNS plans to conduct an 'independent investigation' for a 'neutral and unbiased report' on the rape cases, the statement

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CID granted more time to submit

probe report date for submission of the in-President Ziaur Rahman Murder Case by the CID police was further extended by one month.

trate A K M Monirul Islam shifted the 112th hearing of the case today as the CID failed to submit its report.

CMM asked to submit the report by September 30.

to submit the investigation re-Founding day

restore democracy and rule of BNP, Begum Zia said late President Ziaur Rahman established the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in 1978 to fill the politi-

Prime land From Page 1

ate and manage the pumps after their installation. within the flood protection area in the city is now under water for about a month because of failure of the authorities involved," one source said yester-

"lack of coordination among the three organisations in implementing the plan and ignoring accountability". Other causes of the flood are delay in closing down the sluice gate at Rampura bridge, inade-

Major causes of their failure

closed on July 28, when the water was already above the normal flood-level," the source pump out the water, but only 13 out of 20 provided for this are operational," another source told this correspondent yester-

in 1991 with assistance from the ADB and is scheduled to be completed by June next year. The government, however, requested the donor agency to extend the implementation period of the Project by another nine months, the sources noted.

CHITTAGONG, Aug 31: The vestigation report in former

reports UNB. Chief Metropolitan Magis-

On request from the CID, the AC prosecution M Rafig appealed for the extension of time

From Page 1 to remove the government, and Referring to the formation of

cal vacuum caused by a changeover in 1975.

"Ten per cent prime land

quate pumping to drain out the water and excessive rainfall. "The sluice gate at Rampura was

"Forty pumps are required to day. "It is not possible to pump out the water with only 13 pumps." The Project was undertaken

OIC, SAARC states

tation work, he said. "Please convey this to your governments as an emergency appeal," said the Finance Min-

However, he said the United

States has already promised

two lakh metric tons of food-

grains and gave an indication that another two lakh metric tons could be provided. Explaining the urgency of the food aid, Kibria said: "I don't believe that production of aman paddy will be good and there will be shortfall. As a result, we will have to face three critical months from September to No-

vember. We must have enough

food for these three months."

He said before the situation deteriorated, the country had adequate food stock and the government did not feel to seek foreign assistance. "We thought by July the flood water would recede and aman (seedlings) could be planted.

Now, the cause of danger is that

there is no scope for aman cul-

Kibria said the government

believed it would be able to cope

with the situation. But the situ-

ation took such a twist that it is

tivation."

forced to seek external assistance. "After 1988, it is a calamity we are facing."

infrastructure in both rural and urban areas, schools and all public facilities are affected by the flood, he added. Agriculture Secretary M

etable to meet the demands of farmers. "We also need cash to help them start with new planta-

fertiliser. Water Resources Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda said most of the embankments and dams excluding a few city protection embankments have been fully or partially damaged. He said to rebuild those em-

bankments before the next

monsoon, the country badly

apprised of the extent of damage

The ambassadors were also

needs lots of cash.

the briefing.

stressed the need for phosphate

of the rural infrastructure, school, college, satellite clinics in the villages. Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Bhutan, Egypt, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Saudi

Arabia, Turkey and the United

Arab Emirates were present at

against hybrid technology. But, farmers' right on seeds and traditional wisdom acquired from nature for time immemorial can not be denied by making scientific advancements. "Moreover, the question is

When asked whether Mon-

From Page 1

upholding the spirit of nationalism. Begum Zia added: "Many leaders had left, but the workers believing in the ideology have kept the party alive and successfully carried the anti-autocratic movement for long nine years. Their success led to the party's victory in 1991 election It has now proved beyond doubt

Rizvi Ahmed also spoke on the

with iron rod. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Nothing was

business house left the office at about 8 pm Sunday.

locked from out side.

Wali lying on the floor. Being informed, the owner of the firm and police recovered

Medical College Hospital The owner of the business house filed a murder case with

Tania

ing. Seeing this, Mora fled from

At one stage, she drew the attention of the judge, saying renowned agriculturist, also joined the demonstration. Talking to The Daily Star last night, Khan said, "We're not

whether our poor peasants will be in a position to afford the hitech seeds", he said. The demonstrators alleged that Navarretti's secret visit is to find business partner in Bangladesh. Earlier, Grameen Bank cancelled its plan to set up a Monsanto-Grameen centre in

Dhaka, following protests by

Biman's DMD

From Page 1

thority and is of no legal effect

environmentalists.

and why direction should not be issued upon the respondents to withdraw/cancel the same forthwith. The court also passed an interim order staying operation

of the said order pending hearing of the rule nisi upon a petition filed by Lt Col (rtd) Zainal Abedin. Abedin, a prominent freedom fighter, was retired by a notification on August 27, signed by a joint secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism although he did not attain the retirement age of after 25 years of service. He was

Floods

not shown any reason behind

his retirement, the press release

From Page 1 slightly lower than previous days but still remained at

higher stage. The impact of the tide was observed at Chandpur when the height of low tide was still maintaining over 30 cm above danger level (4 metre) till Sunday evening.

According to the status re-

port, the observed water levels

transmitted from India was slightly increasing with forecast of further 5 cm increase till 8 pm yesterday. According to the Relief Ministry control room the districts where the situation deteriorated are Narayanganj, Gopal-

ganj, Noakhali, Laxmipur,

Brahmanbaria and Cha-

The situation remained static in Gazipur, Narsingdi, Dhaka, Munshiganj, My mensingh, Kishoregani, Faridpur Madaripur, Shariatpur Comilla, Habiganj, Rajshahi Bogra and Pabna. Improvement was observed

painawabganj.

Gaibandha and Sirajganj, said the control room. The control room said flood related death toll yesterday (Monday) rose to 423 with 16 more deaths. Of the fresh deaths, 14 were reported from Chapainawabganj and two

in Jamalpur, Netrokona, Sher-

pur, Manikganj, Rajbari

Barisal, Chandpur, Kurigram,

Sahera's baby

from Dhaka.

to DSH. Prof Hussain mentioned Everyday about 500 children

are treated. For the past few

years, the hospital is experienc-

ing a heavy load of patients, 30

per cent of whom are referred

From Page 1

from districts. The hospital has 305 beds About 50 patients are admitted everyday from the OPD. Originally planned for 500 beds, the hospital needs immediate expansion to accommodate the increasing number of patients.

the Director said.

Dr Reaz Mobarak, a researcher at the hospital, said, "We have almost 100 per cent occupancy at the hospital round the year. Sometimes it is overcrowded with patients. The flood has made the situation worse. Most of the patients come

with symptoms of pneumonia

Bangabandhu Murder Case The officers also threatened