



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

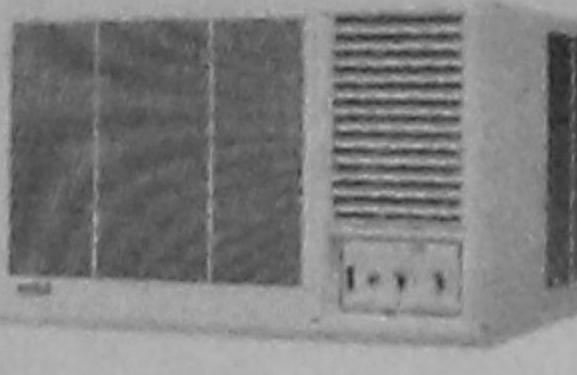
BANGSHAL

Majed Court, 16/1 Siddique Bazar
North South Road, Dhaka
Tel # 965-462

NARAYANGANJ

7/2, Sirajuddowla Road, Khanpur
Narayanganj
Tel # 9714336

Air Conditioner (Window type)



BACKED BY
WARRANTY
100% **SAFETY**

SANYO**TRANSFIN TRADING LIMITED**

(Sole Distributor in Bangladesh for Sanyo Products-A Transcom Company)

Dhaka: 8115307-10, 9882192, 9009044, 9335235, 9130204, 9130206 (144), 9663870, 019 386101

Chittagong: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215, 6074, Comilla: 4671, Mymensingh: 53444, 01752682, Sylhet: 723612, 723672 (2123), Habiganj: 52203, Rangpur: 5188

Available
In Easy
Installments

Tagore's death anniversary observed

By Staff Correspondent

The 59th anniversary of death of Rabindranath Tagore was observed in the country yesterday through various programmes.

Different socio-cultural organisations and institutions took up programmes including discussions on the poet's life and works and cultural functions to mark the day.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar aired special programmes on the occasion.

National dailies brought out special supplements on the day.

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday recalled the contribution of Rabindranath Tagore to make Bengali language and literature known in the international area.

The discussion was organised by the Shilpkala Academy. The speakers include

Defence argues for Farooq's acquittal

A defence counsel yesterday demanded condemned army officer Farooq Rahman be acquitted of the charge of involvement in the "so-called" conspiracy of killing Bangabandhu, saying that his complicity was not proved, reports UNB.

He also pointed to the fact that three others charged in the Bangabandhu Murder Case got exonerated.

Adv Khan Saifur Rahman argued that if Taheruddin Thakur and to others could be acquitted of charge of conspiracy to kill Bangabandhu, then Col (dismissed) Farooq Rahman should also be relieved.

Farooq Rahman should be acquitted of the charges on grounds that his position with the so-called conspiracy was lesser than that of Taheruddin Thakur and two others who were acquitted even though they

See page 11 col 7



educationist Dr. Abdul Quayum, cultural personality Mustafa Monwar, artiste Ataur Rahman, art critic Moinuddin Khaled, vocalist Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya and Director of the academy Azad Rahman.

A musical soiree followed the discussion.

The Bangla Academy and the National Museum also organised separate programmes to mark the day.

Abhudo Music Association (AMA) will arrange a musical soiree today at 7:30 p.m. at the auditorium of Biswa Sahitya Kendra in the city.

No more political meeting at FBCCI

Star Report

In the wake of growing criticism over a former FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry) president's political meeting at the chamber's conference room, the executive committee of the chamber yesterday decided not to rent out its conference room to any political party.

However, to tone down the criticism, the committee in a meeting yesterday decided to allow Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, a BNP lawmaker, to hold a meeting at the FBCCI conference room.

The business community criticised FBCCI's decision as it allowed Yusuf Abdullah Harun, a former President of the chamber, to hold a political meeting at its conference room on Saturday to settle an internal feud of Murad Nagar Thana Awami League.

However, the FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo, when contacted, said that they allowed Harun to hold the meeting as he is a former president of the chamber and not for any political reasons. He also said that the decision was not contrary to the constitution of the chamber and mentioned many organisations usually hold meetings at that venue.

But from now on we will be very cautious while renting out the conference room to any organisation. Why should we keep on getting into this sort of controversy, Mintoo said.

However, sources said that Harun was allowed to hold the meeting even without applying to the secretariat authority.

Talking to The Daily Star, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury said that he applied following press reports. "As a ruling party representative was allowed to hold a meeting, I decided to apply for renting the conference room."

He also said that allowing such political meeting at the FBCCI is unprecedented and does not personally like the idea of political party's holding such meeting in the FBCCI conference room.

Meantime, Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid also applied to the FBCCI for permission to hold a meeting of the Jatiya Anjibhi Federation at the end of this month. However, FBCCI President said they haven't received any application from Firoz Rashid till yesterday evening.

Free dengue test in hospitals at 6 div Hqs

The government has made arrangements to conduct laboratory test to diagnose dengue fever in different hospitals at six divisional headquarters across the country free of cost, reports BSS.

This was decided at a high level meeting of the Ministry of Health yesterday with Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in the chair.

The hospitals are Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Suhrawardy Hospital, National Medical College Hospital, Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, Mahanagar Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, IEDCR, BIRDEM hospital, Mitford Hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Sadar Hospital and different Medical College Hospitals and Sadar Hospitals in six divisional headquarters across the country.

The hospitals will remain open round-the-clock to help

patients undergo laboratory test, ministry sources said.

The meeting discussed the dengue fever situation and asked the departments concerned to take adequate measures to contain the disease.

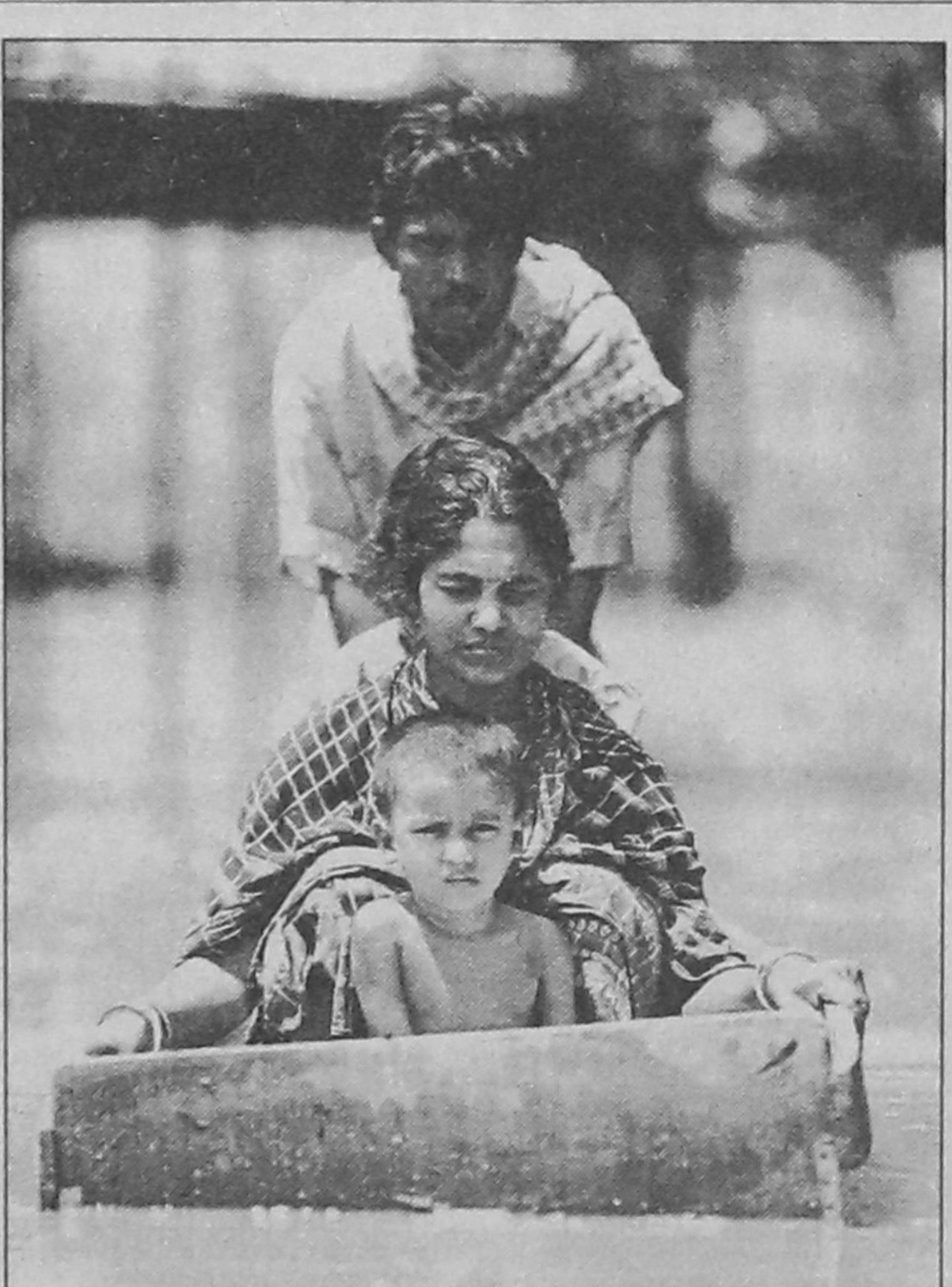
Rally at Ctg to create mass awareness

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: The task force formed by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) today organised a rally in the city to create mass awareness about dengue fever.

Pro Sultan Ul Alam, head of community medicine at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) is the convener of a 33-member task force.

A research cell was opened today at the Department of Community Medicine of CMCH to collect and compile reports on dengue virus, CMCH sources said.



A villager pushes his family through a waterlogged area in a small hand-made boat in Shantipur in Nadia district, some 100 kilometres north of Calcutta on Saturday. Over one million people have been homeless by flash floods caused by Monsoon downpour last week which also damaged rice and jute crops.

— AFP photo

Population may reach 177.3m in 25 yrs

When the world's population hits nine billion by middle of the new century at the current growth rate, Bangladesh is likely to be crammed with 210.8 million people, reports UNB.

The country's population is expected to reach 177.3 million in the next 25 years, according to a data sheet of US-based Population Reference Bureau received here yesterday.

Currently ranked eighth, Bangladesh will remain pegged to the same status when some of the countries would have made it higher in the leader.

The just-released 2000 World Population Data Sheet containing the demographic data worldwide shows the world is expected to have a population of nine billion by 2050. World population hit 6-billion mark last October.

And the PRB, in its press release, made grim predictions that the current period of rapid population growth would continue for at least another 50

years.

The PRB annual report card on world demographic trends also showed that the population of Bangladesh has doubled within 38 years and the percentage of natural increase in 1.8.

Authors to the data sheet, Carl Haub and Dianna Cornelius, said: We are well out on way toward a seven billion in 12 and 13 years, the shortest period ever.

But this scenario assumes increasing use of voluntary family planning in developing countries even in areas where it is virtually unknown.

"At stake are the successes of efforts to protect the environment, combat growing poverty, and solve water and food supply problems," they added.

The less developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America now account for 80 per cent of world population but represent 99 per cent of global growth.

And the PRB, in its press release, made grim predictions that the current period of rapid population growth would continue for at least another 50

years.

The world population in 2000 totalled 6,072,677,000 (6.1 billion) with 1,184,155,000 living in the more developed countries (Europe, North America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand) and 4,883,112,000 in the less developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The highest growth rates are found in the poorest countries, despite stated policies to reduce population growth and despite high levels of HIV/AIDS, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa," the release work.

Worldwide, women currently average about 2.9 births in their lifetime. This ranges from a low of only 1.2 in Eastern Europe to 5.8 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The population of less developed countries (excluding China) now numbers 3,619,576,000. The bulk of world population growth is concentrated in these countries (70 million annually).

In these countries, women

average 3.7 children each, a rate well above the two children required for populations to only replace themselves and reach a condition of zero growth.

The data show that India became world's second "population millionaire" this year and is expected to pass China by mid-century.

Globally, about 1 per cent of the population is estimated to be infected with HIV/AIDS. The highest proportion is in Sub-Saharan Africa (7.1 per cent) and the lowest in Europe (0.2 per cent) and Oceania (0.1 per cent).

Sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of 657 million and a total fertility rate of 5.8 children per woman, has by far the fastest-growing population in the world. The HIV/AIDS epidemic notwithstanding the region is projected to have 1.5 billion inhabitants by 2050.

Source: Islamic Foundation

Deluge in N-dists takes turn for the worse

By Staff Correspondent

Flood has claimed at least 12 lives in the northern districts of Kurigram, Sirajganj and Lalmonirhat until yesterday. Besides, two people have been missing since flood water broke through two embankments in Jamalpur district yesterday.

The flood situation is likely to deteriorate in some parts of the country due to continuous rise of some major rivers.

Seven people drowned in flood water in Kurigram, four in Sirajganj and one in Lalmonirhat district.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday that the country's major rivers are flowing above the danger level at nine points and may rise to five more points by today.

Asked about the recent flood in the Indian states of Assam and Bihar, a FFWC official said the flood water from those Indian states will ultimately run down to the Bay of Bengal through Jamuna and Brahmaputra.

The flood water broke through Harindra and Akondopara embankments of the district, our correspondent

added.

Meanwhile, our Rangpur correspondent reported that flood has so far claimed seven lives in Kurigram district, including one yesterday, and one in Lalmonirhat district.

Brahmaputra, Dhrara and Teesta and their tributaries were flowing well above the danger level, inundating low-lying areas along the rivers.

At least 60,000 people in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, and Rangpur districts are marooned due to heavy downpour and onrush of flood waters from across Indian upper stream zones, our correspondent added.

Over four lakh people of Manikganj, Pabna, Sirajganj and Rajbari districts have been marooned due to worsening flood situation.

Ferrying of transport on Aricha-Nagarbari-Daulatdia routes was disrupted, as seven out of eleven pontoons were flooded with swelling waters of Padma.

Breach in dam 8 children swept away in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Eight children while cutting grass at the foot of cross dam at village Boilgaon under Sadhnapur union were swept away when sudden water surge made a breach in the dam today, reports UNB.

Seven of them were rescued from Anwara, 2 km down stream of the Sangkha river, in a critical condition.

Baby Akhtar, 8-year-old primary school student, was still missing, residents and police said.

About 20 yards of the cross

Seepage 11 col 6

In the eastern state of Bihar, two more flood-related deaths were reported Saturday, taking the toll there to 24, a government spokesman said.

Nearly one million people, spread over hundreds of villages in Bihar's 16 districts, were affected by the floods, which have damaged crops and public property worth several million rupees, he said.

The air force and army were carrying out rescue operations in the state with helicopters and motor boats, he added.

An Indian Railways spokesman in Assam, meanwhile, said repair work had started so that train links could be restored.

But it will take over a week for trains to start plying as there has been extensive damage to railway tracks. Some of the tracks have been washed away, he said.

This is hampering relief work.

The seven northeastern

See page 11 col 8

states are linked to the rest of India through Assam.

According to Gogoi, the national highway in the western districts of Kokrajhar and Nalbari in Assam was completely under water.

Almost 1.5 million people in Assam have been left homeless, he said.

In the eastern state of Bihar, two more flood-related deaths were reported Saturday, taking the toll there to 24, a government spokesman said.

Baby Akhtar, 8-year-old primary school student, was still missing, residents and police said.

About 20 yards of the cross

See page 11 col 6

In the eastern state of Bihar, two more flood-related deaths were reported Saturday, taking the toll there to 24, a government spokesman said.

Baby Akhtar, 8-year-old primary school student, was still missing, residents and police said.

About 20 yards of the cross

See page 11 col 6

In the eastern state of Bihar, two more flood-related deaths were reported Saturday, taking the toll there to 24, a government spokesman said.

Baby Akhtar, 8-year-old primary school student, was still missing, residents and police said.

About