

More than
1,40,000 people...

we do,
whatever it takes to
connect you
to the world!"



FedEx

Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.

Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters

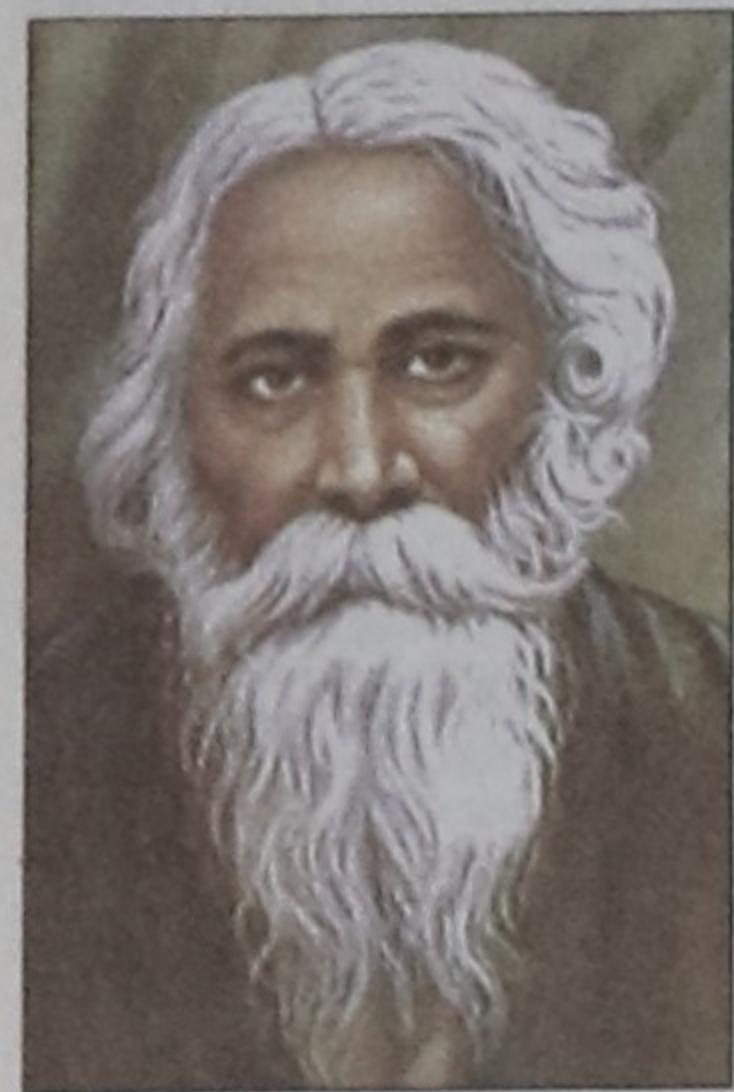
TRANSTEC

Refrigerator & Freezer

TRANSOM ELECTRONICS

BB53166-8
01712-665461

Sader Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206



Tagore's birth
anniversary
today

UNB, Dhaka

The 147th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore will be celebrated across the country today.

The government and socio-cultural organisations have taken up extensive programmes to celebrate the great poet's birthday.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate Tagore's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Businessman
shot dead
in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown gunmen shot dead a manpower businessman near his residence in city's Nikunja area under Khilkhet police station yesterday.

Police arrested a former business partner of the deceased in connection with the murder of Momminul Alam Shimul, 34, who was one of the four owners of Unique Overseas at Kakoli-Banani.

Shimul was a resident of Nikunja-2 and hailed from Haimchar upazila in Chandpur district.

The detained man was identified as Mizanur Rahman, husband of Shimul's sister-in-law.

Police and family members said that the murder followed a business related feud between Shimul and Mizan.

Witnesses said two men on a motorcycle shot at Shimul while he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Sector commanders calls for unity to try war criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Sector Commander Maj Gen (retd) KM Saifulah Bir Uttam said yesterday that war criminals of 1971 must be brought to justice because by denying the Liberation War these criminals were denying the sovereignty, liberty and constitution of the country.

"They must be brought to book and be punished," Saifulah demanded.

He was speaking at a view-exchange meeting between the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) and freedom fighters and general people of greater Rangpur region at the Rangpur town hall yesterday.

At the meet, SCF called on the government again to begin the trial of war criminals for the sake of democracy and peace and harmony.

SCF is touring North Bengal as part of their nationwide campaign to drum up support for trial of all war criminals.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Ast	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Help: 01713238381-5

The Daily Star - C-FAS ROUNDTABLE

Pro-active foreign policy sought

Ex-diplomats criticise neglect shown to foreign affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ambassadors of the country yesterday stressed the need for a more proactive foreign policy replacing the existing one, which remains 'reactive' only to developments in other countries.

Criticising the neglect shown to matters of foreign affairs over the years, the former ambassadors urged for putting foreign policy in the centre of governance 'as done in the rest of the world'.

Over 20 former ambassadors, who represented Bangladesh to different countries over the past few decades, underscored the need for bringing changes to the foreign policy apparatus at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

The Daily Star and the Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies (C-Fas) jointly organised the roundtable

titled 'Future Direction of Bangladesh Foreign Policy' in the newspaper's office yesterday.

Pointing out that the country's foreign policy is uncoordinated and sometimes managed by multiple ministries and agencies, the discussants stressed the need for coordination among all branches of government ministries and agencies headed by the foreign ministry, terming the move 'a precondition for an effective foreign policy'.

Promoting the country's national interest in a globalised world will not be possible without an efficient, effective and well-funded foreign policy infrastructure, the former ambassadors noted.

The discussants suggested further discussions on foreign policy matters at different levels of

the society, including in universities, to address the existing disconnect between the people and policies.

The daylong roundtable had three separate sessions with C-Fas Chairman Ashfaqur Rahman delivering the welcome speech.

Stressing the need for crafting a foreign policy which will reflect the people's aspiration while addressing global issues, he asked whether the country's foreign policy has ever thought of reforms in the United Nations or in the regional framework.

Saying that solutions to domestic problems also require global solutions, he added, all should complement each other in facing challenges like terrorism and poverty alleviation.

Former ambassador Harun ur

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Participants at a roundtable titled "Future Direction of Bangladesh Foreign Policy" organised by The Daily Star and the Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies at The Daily Star conference room yesterday.

Myanmar junta still blocks aid groups

Okays UN aid flight, appoints a minister to oversee visa applications

AFP, AP, Yangon

Aid groups said yesterday they were still awaiting permission to enter Myanmar, where they reported bodies rotting on the ground and desperate cyclone survivors dying from hunger and disease.

Five days after the storm hit, leaving more than 60,000 people dead or missing in one of the

world's worst natural disasters, the full scope of the tragedy was not yet known, with many towns simply washed away.

But international agencies painted a picture of devastation and urgent need, saying millions of people were homeless and without food and water -- while disaster experts waited in limbo, blocked by Myanmar's secretive army rulers.

"One team came across thou-

sands of people killed in one town-

ship,

with

piles

of

rotting

bodies

ly-

ing

on

the

ground," said Andrew Kirkwood of Save the Children, one of the few foreign aid groups allowed to operate inside Myanmar.

He

said

staff

inside

the

poor

and

isolated

nation

had

re-

ceived

re-

ports

that

survivors

of

Sat-

ur-

day

of

the

cyclone

in

Pi-

n-

y-

n-

k-

a-

y-

a-

n-

a-