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Winning the  
BEST  
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3rd Millennium

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## Dengue patients on rise: Serious crisis of blood

By Staff Correspondent

Different hospitals and clinics in the city reported admitting a total of 18 people with dengue fever yesterday.

According to sources, Dhaka Medical College Hospital admitted one yesterday while nine such patients are undergoing treatment there.

Two dengue patients were admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday, raising the total number of dengue patients at the hospital to 46.

Three more persons infected with dengue virus were admitted to Suhrawardi Hospital yesterday while BIRDDEM admitted four. The total number of dengue infected patients at BIRDDEM now stands at 32.

Samarita Hospital admitted four new patients with dengue fever yesterday while Central Hospital admitted three.

Bangladesh Medical College Hospital reported admitting one patient yesterday. The total number of dengue patients at the hospital stood at 21 yesterday.

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## Workers of four textile mills at CEPZ begin strike

CHITTAGONG, July 24: Workers of four textile mills at CEPZ began an indefinite strike at 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The mills owned by a US citizen are: Tower (Bangladesh) Ltd, Globe Textile, Global Textile and Al Salam (Bangladesh) Ltd.

The workers are demanding pay-hike as per a BEPZA circular issued in 1993.

Earlier, production in three other textile mills here remained suspended from June 11 due to strike called by their workers on the same demand.

EPZ authorities, however, said the circular of increasing pay has immediately been cancelled through another circular.

### Inside Today

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by Khurshid Hamid

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#### Prayer Timings

July 25

Sun Rise 6:45 pm

Sun Sets 5:25 am

July 26

## Driver of microbus discloses 7 Shibir-backed gunmen involved in Ctg killings

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 24: A gang of seven Shibir-backed gunmen was involved in the July 8 killing of eight people including six Chhatra League activists at Bahaddarhat in Chittagong, police said today.

Police made the disclosure after interrogating Babul Hossain, driver of the microbus used in the killing and Md Solaiman, an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Police said they have "fully detected" the incident.

Solaiman was arrested from Banskhali in Chittagong on Saturday night and Babul Hossain was arrested yesterday afternoon from Comilla.

Solaiman was one of the seven members of the gang, police confirmed.

Police said driver Babul identified Solaiman at the CID office last night. Babul told police that Solaiman was in the gang which fired shots indiscriminately, killing the eight people.

The driver jumped after seeing Solaiman at CID office and identified him as one of the killers" a senior police official said on condition of anonymity.

During interrogation, Solaiman also disclosed in detail the incident to CID police.

A senior official of CID told this correspondent that they have collected "full particulars" of the gang members. But he de-

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## Japanese PM Mori due in city Aug 19

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori will arrive in Bangladesh on August 19 on the first leg of his South Asian tour, official sources said yesterday.

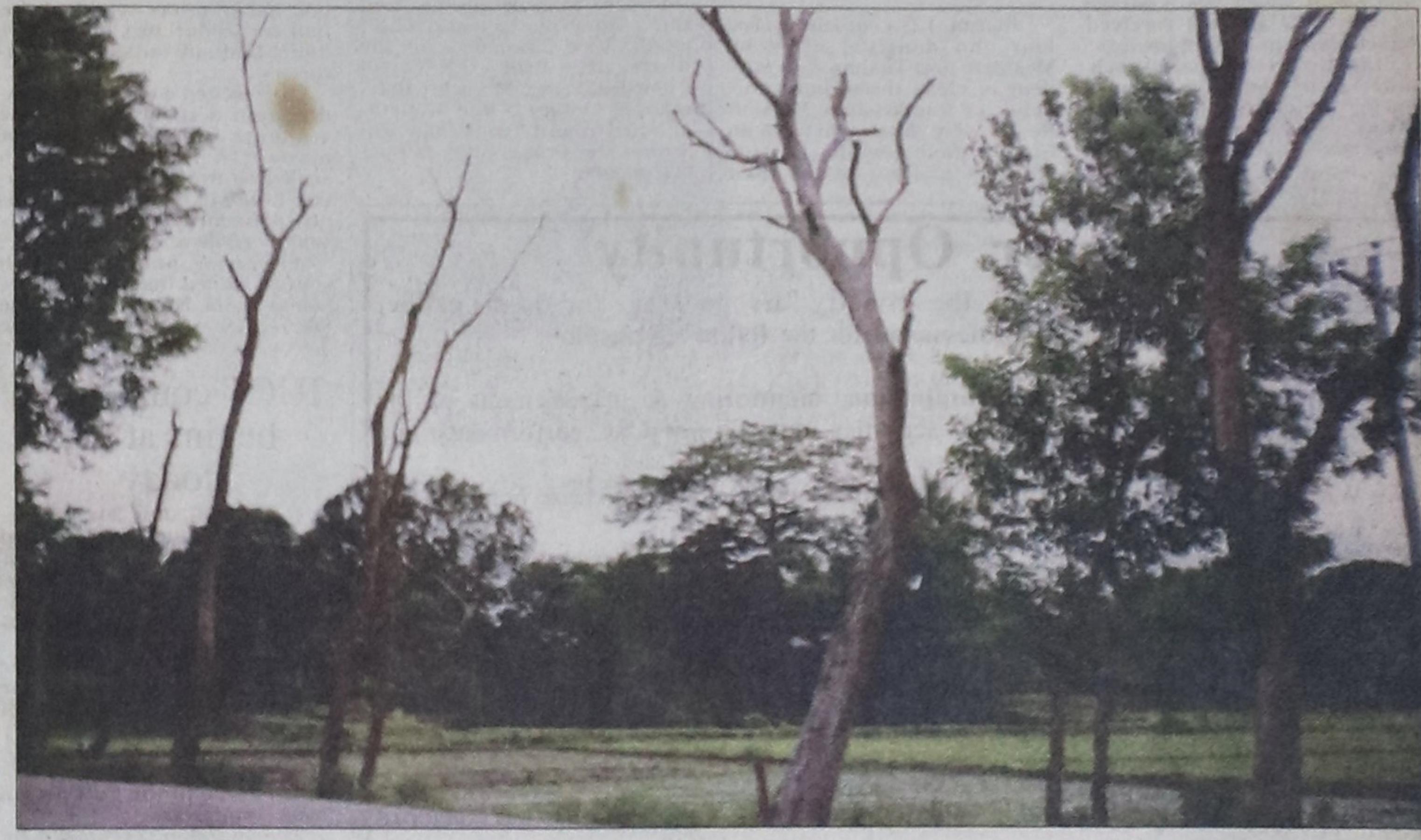
He is arriving here on a 2-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who visited Japan in 1997, a Foreign Office source told UNB.

From Dhaka, the Japanese premier is expected to go to Islamabad and New Delhi on his three-nation trip.

Mori would be the second Prime Minister of Japan to visit Bangladesh. Toshiaki Kaifu was the first to visit Bangladesh on May 1, 1990.

During his stay here, the Japanese Prime Minister would hold official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in which investment and economic cooperation between the two countries are likely to figure prominently.

A 60-member media team is likely to accompany Mori during his South Asia tour.



—Star photo by Akhteruzzaman Babul.

**Going gray:** A large number of valuable Sisum or Shishu trees along both sides of six roads in Sirajganj district are either dying or being stolen by poachers thanks to lack of care by the authorities. About 20,000 trees were planted as part of the afforestation programme in 1992 on the roads leading to Belkuchi, Enayetur, Kazipur and Sirajganj Town Embankment-WAPDA road, Bogra-Nagarbari Highway and Kamarkhand-Belkuchi road.

## Going gets tough for Amu

### Elen Bhutto has blessings of both opposition & some AL leaders

By Nazmul Ashraf, with Aroop Talukdar in Jhalakati

Amir Hossain Amu with all his powers as a cabinet minister and a senior ruling party leader is finding going really tough in his run for the parliamentary by-election in Jhalakati-2 constituency.

Elen Bhutto, widow of Jatiya Party MP Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose death necessitated the by-polls, is giving food Minister Amu a hard time, although he thought it to be an easy sail due to the fact that mainstream opposition parties are boycotting it.

The July 31 by-election by all indications is poised to see a scorching battle between Amu and Elen, an independent candidate.

The JP did not pick Bhutto's widow to contest the vacant seat due to her previous unwillingness. But Elen's well-wishers and followers of her late husband who won the seat thrice

made her to change the decision. Besides, reports have it that Elen is having blessings of the opposition parties in the

constituency and some ruling party leaders.

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