



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places during the next 12 hours till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 24.6 degree at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.41pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.3	24.6	95	94
Chittagong	31.8	26.5	80	82
Rajshahi	31.5	27.4	89	86
Khulna	33.5	27.5	83	97
Barisal	31.7	26.0	88	93
Sylhet	27.7	25.8	100	96
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.2	89	90

IU teachers abstain from work

BSS, Kushtia

The teachers, officers and employees of the Applied Science and Technology Faculty of the Islamic University (IU) abstained from work from August 1 as the Islamic University authority stopped their salary.

They took the decision to abstain from work at a meeting with Prof Alauddin, Dean of Science Faculty, in the chair.

According to official sources, the IU authority stopped the salary of 125 teachers, officers and employees from July as the faculty was not approved by the government. As a result, the government did not release any fund for the faculty, the sources added.

The teachers of the Science Faculty condemned the IU VC and Treasurer for the situation. They announced that if the IU authority did not give their salary by today, they would be forced to start greater movement.

CEMS exhibition begins in city

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day exhibition on service sectors, computer equipment and education began at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday with a view to promoting closer relations between the consumers, producers and service-providers.

Forty-eight local and foreign organisations are taking part in the exposition, organised by the Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS).

Inaugurating the exhibition, State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bhui said such events could play a vital role to promote the marketing system.

An efficient marketing is essential for the development of industry, he said, adding that exhibitions and advertisements could help improve the existing marketing system in the country.

The state minister laid emphasis on exhibitions saying "The buyers cannot examine the equality of a product from an advertisement. But they can do it from an exhibition".

CEMS Chief Executive Officer Mehru N Islam said exhibitions of three separate kinds of products and services were organised together to facilitate the people to have ideas about all these items at the same time under the same roof.

The inaugural function was attended by Aftab-ul Islam, president of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh.

The exhibitions will remain open for all from 10 am to 8.30 pm till tomorrow.

Indian political parties agree to frame new law to clean up politics

AFP, New Delhi

Indian political parties yesterday agreed to enact a law to clean up politics by preventing convicted criminals from contesting elections but said anyone who has been charged but not convicted should not be disqualified from contesting.

"There was a unanimous agreement that there should be no disqualification unless the person is convicted," Law Minister Jana Krishnamurthy said.

Krishnamurthy said a new bill will be brought in the ongoing parliament session to turn the proposals into law.

In May, India's Supreme Court said all candidates contesting elections must disclose any criminal cases pending against them as well as their assets and liabilities when they file their nomination papers to contest elections.

The court also ordered the Election Commission, which oversees polling across the country, to issue the necessary directions to political parties as well as draw up a set of guidelines for poll candidates.

Hotel manager

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Math at 8:00 last night. Some unidentified people hurled the cracker at their rivals. Lilly was admitted to the DMCH with severe burns.

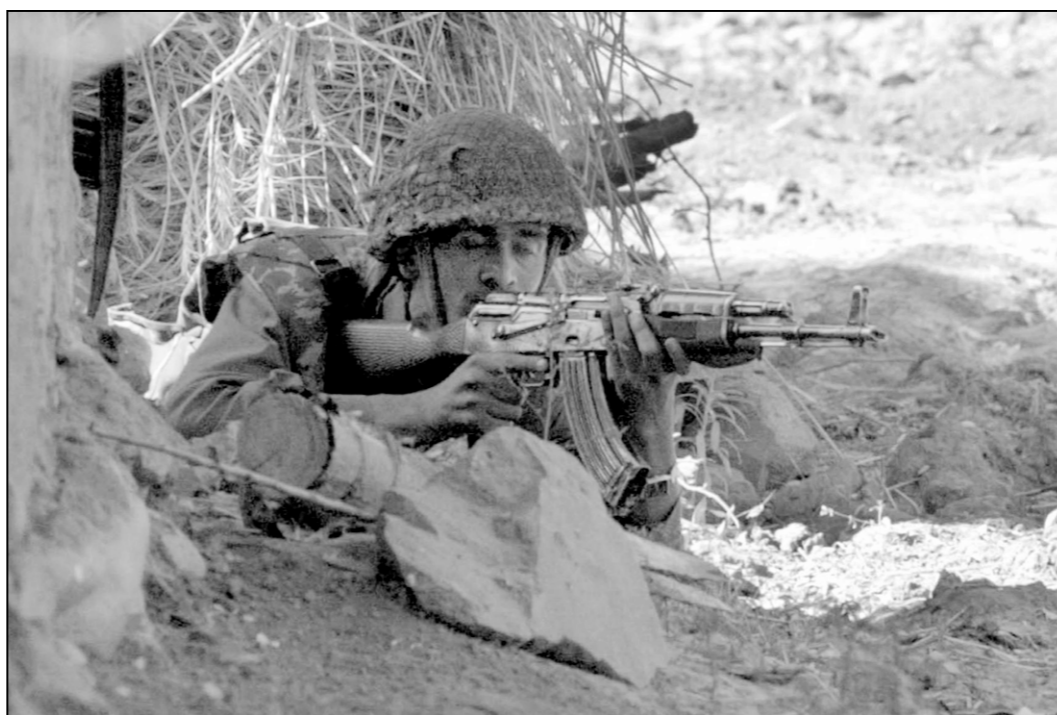
Murder cases

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Awami League leader Haroon Sarder. Haroon Sarder, general secretary of Rupsha Upazila unit of Awami League, was shot dead in the city in January last year.

On February 15 this year, armed miscreants killed Hamida Khatoun, wife of fish trader Abdul Jalil of Niklapur village under Rupsha thana. Hamida was the main prosecution witness of a case under the Arms Act in which the alleged killers are accused, police said.

"We are feeling insecure in going to court for deposition. Because, the accused in murder and other criminal cases frequently give us death threats. Besides, we have no confidence in the IOs (investigation officers)," one complainant told this correspondent seeking anonymity.



A member of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) takes up a position during an encounter with separatist militants in Malpora, some 25kms west of Srinagar yesterday. The fierce firefight has claimed the life of one Indian soldier so far.

No more silk on public loom

FROM PAGE 1

The sources said the state-owned factories failed to sell off their last year's production.

Silk fabrics worth two and a half crore taka are wearing out in factory warehouses. Also, the authorities shut down all but one silk-marketing outlet.

By contrast, most of the 36 private silk factories are making good profits from yarns and fabrics.

The Rajshahi Silk Factory was set up during 1959-60 with 471 staff and 4,61,700-metre silk production capacity a year. The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) handed the factory over to the BSB, when it came into being in 1978.

On the other hand, a non-governmental organisation called the Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS) established the Thakurgaon Silk Factory to rehabilitate war-deserted women and generate incomes through silk production at the same time.

Initially, the factory with 111 staff had a one-lakh-metre silk production capacity a year.

The closure of the factory has left some 100 families of destitute women, mostly victims of the 1971

war, jobless.

Surprisingly enough, although they have a capacity of producing over five and a half lakh metres silk a year, they produced only 87,000-metre silk in the last fiscal. This poor performance came just a year after the completion of BMRE on the two factories at a cost of Tk 8 crore.

State Minister for Textiles Mizanur Rahman Sinha told The Daily Star yesterday, "We've decided to shut down the factories with effect from July 31, as they have been incurring losses for years together. The plan is to hand them over to the Privatisation Commission for divestment."

Sinha blamed the weakening of the factories on the previous Awami League government.

Asked about the pleas by the workers for not divesting the factories, Sinha said, "It has already been decided. What we can do now is consider if the staff themselves are interested to own and operate the factories."

Of relevance, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir requested the textiles ministry not to close down the silk factories, which were providing job opportunities to poor villagers. With

the closure, the glorious silk heritage will be lost, he feared.

Pointing to wrong policies and the faulty BMRE carried out in 1999, Alamgir said that the government could still make the factories financially viable without divesting.

Sinha said, "We've already told Mr. Alamgir, Mr. Minu (Rajshahi mayor) and others concerned that they may come up with ideas for the welfare of the workers...the government can no longer bear the losses."

The sources said that in the backdrop of the BSB's poor performance in operating the factories, a separate independent body called the Bangladesh Silk Foundation (BSF) was founded, over two years ago, with financial assistance from the World Bank.

The BSF with the help of the textiles ministry and private and NGO sectors is promoting the cultivation of mulberry trees, silkworms and cocoons.

Over the years, three dozen silk factories have been set up in the country, mostly in Rajshahi, under private initiatives, producing over one million metres silks and yarns a year, the sources added.

No gas export, no ADB aid

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be compelled to cancel the 250-million-dollar western zone gas pipeline project if the government didn't go for gas export.

They in this regard urged the government to let them know its decision by this month. Mosharraf told them the government couldn't take a decision on such a sensitive issue within such a short time.

The sources said ADB proposed to the government that Bangladesh export 300 million cubic feet of gas through the western region pipeline and supply another 200 million cubic feet to people of the western zone.

The proposed 30-inch gas pipeline can supply 500 million cubic feet a day. Construction of the 500-kilometre pipeline will cost 250 million dollars and ADB will provide loan only if the government opts for export.

Officials at the Energy Ministry said minister Mosharraf informed the ADB team that two national committees were now working on the issue of gas export and the government would take a decision regarding the question of export

after getting their reports.

However, there is clear indication that utilisation committee will recommend to the government not to export gas from existing reserves determined by the other committee to be 12 to 16 trillion cubic feet.

The utilisation committee will suggest to the government to go for export only after new discoveries for bringing foreign investment in the sector as well as its downstream reform.

Evidently, the move has worried the international oil companies (IOCs), particularly US oil giant Unocal that proposed to the government for exporting 500 million cubic feet of gas from its Bibiyana field.

The recent developments in the workings of the committees also put the donors in frustration and they started lobbying for a positive decision regarding export for the sake of investment and reform.

Whenever ADB is sending any delegation from its headquarters, the members are repeating gas export as a condition for funding reform and expansion of country's energy and power sectors.

Before last week's visit, S

Chandar had also led another ADB delegation in the first week of June and tried to persuade the government to go for pipeline export of the natural gas.

"You can call it a condition. But we say it is the requirement of the country," he told newsmen when asked whether ADB's future grants and loans will be conditional to gas export.

Warmest year

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of about 59 Fahrenheit in the period from January to June.

In the nearly 150 years since recording began, only in 1998 has the difference been higher, 1.08 Fahrenheit, and that was caused by the influence of the El Nino weather phenomenon.

The figures also showed that the northern hemisphere had its warmest-ever half year, with temperatures 1.31 Fahrenheit above the long-term average.

The Met Office compiles its figures from data collected from observatories round the world, as well as from ships at sea.

JSD splits

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latest development in JSD is unfortunate and a matter of serious breach of discipline within the party. He said he still considered himself the party's general secretary although the other faction had removed him from the post.

"Superseding three joint general secretaries of the party, an organisation secretary (Abdul Malek Ratan) can't be made the new general secretary. JSD's constitution does not permit that," Inu defended, adding that he had not talked to Ziku following the incident.

Following yesterday's development, the rank and file of JSD got frustrated particularly over the non-functional role of JSD President ASM Rob.

After the end of the previous AL rule, during which Rob was a cabinet minister, the JSD president came under fire at a party meeting late last year for his various decisions over the previous few years. Since December 29, 2001, Rob had abstained from all party meetings.

On Thursday, Rob held a press conference all of a sudden and that too in his personal capacity, not representing the party. At the press conference, he talked about forging a national consensus at a time when he himself failed to keep his own partymen together.

Different JSD factions including particularly the one led by Rob and another by Inu merged at the 25th founding anniversary of the party on October 31, 1997.

Statements of six

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swooped over their identity cards. The DU Syndicate will meet today to discuss the campus situation and reopening of the university. Acting Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider will chair the meeting, scheduled to begin at 5:00pm.

The acting VC earlier said he would try to reopen the university within this week.

The six students in their separate statements alleged that police, assistant proctors who were at the hall at that time and some leaders of JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of ruling BNP) were responsible for the incidents.

The police officials who were on duty on the DU campus on July 23 and 24 listed their names with the temporary office of the judicial commission yesterday to give their statements on the incidents. They are Abdur Rahim, ADC- South; Bashar Talukdar, AC Ramna Zone; Lutfur Rahman, AC Ramna police station; and Rokeya Begum, Sub-inspector.

Of them, ADC Abdur Rahim has been transferred to Narail and OC Lutfur Rahman has been closed for the alleged atrocities on students.

Two leaders of JCD's Shamsunnahar Hall unit also listed their names with commission's office yesterday. They are Luci and Shanta, president and general secretary of the hall unit of JCD. Bithika, another JCD leader at the hall, listed her name on Thursday.

They will be interrogated by the commission after statements of the 24 students who listed their names on Thursday are recorded, sources said.

The police officials went to the commission office at the National Academy of Education Management (NAEM) at about 10:30am. They looked frustrated.

The JCD leaders went there at about 11:30am. Police officials were seen talking to the JCD leaders.

It was alleged that police swooped on the agitating students of Shamsunnahar Hall on instruction from the JCD leaders who were staying at the hall illegally after completion of their academic life.

General students of the hall were staging demonstrations inside the hall demanding ouster of the JCD leaders from the hall.

Talking to newsmen yesterday, Justice Tafazzal Islam reiterated that it is not possible for the commission to conduct a fair investigation and submit its report by tomorrow, the deadline fixed by the government. He said he will seek another two weeks' time for proper investigation. "I am hopeful of finding out the truth" he said.

Besides students, police officials and employees of Shamsunnahar Hall, the commission will also interrogate journalists regarding the incident, he said.

The written statement of one of the students, submitted to the commission yesterday, was available to The Daily Star.

It said, "At about 1:00am on July 24, one JCD leader at the hall talked to police on her mobile phone asked them to enter the hall. A huge force, mostly composed of policemen, entered there. They took position at room No 235 of Luci, where JCD outsiders had gathered. Later, assistant proctors came to the room and discussed the situation with JCD leaders and police officials. General students were barred from entering the room. Later, at about 3:30am, police swooped on the students. Male policemen beat many of the students and dragged them outside the hall. They used abusive words at that time."

"At about 7:00am on July 24, I saw police arresting a female student from in front of the hall following instruction from JCD leader Lily", the student said in her written statement.

Boys turn violent

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"Symptoms of this antisocial behaviour include persistent fighting, bullying, lying, stealing and disobeying the rules during adolescence," Moffitt said.

"As adults, the subjects may repeatedly violate the law, show no remorse for their actions and act impulsively and aggressively," she added.

They asked the boys themselves about their behaviour, asked friends and family members and also checked police records in Australia and New Zealand.

"Although only 12 percent of their generation's total convictions for assault and other violent crimes," they said.

Boys who had been maltreated but who had higher levels of MAOA were unlikely to develop behaviour problems. Their version of the gene "may promote trauma resistance," Moffitt said.

Simply having that version of the gene did not guarantee a boy would grow up to be a criminal, Moffitt stressed.

"Its relation to aggression only emerged when we considered whether the children had been maltreated," she said.

"This suggests that the best strategy for preventing violence is to prevent child abuse."

It is also possible, Moffitt said, that such a common gene variant may have a positive effect. "We don't know what it is, but we are going to look," she said.

The gene's effects were more difficult to study in girls, because it is found on the X chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes, while males have an X and a Y.

Thus, in girls, the version of the gene found in one of their X chromosomes could cancel out the effects of the other. That may help explain why females in general are less prone to violent and criminal behaviour, the team said.

They said it may be possible someday to screen for people whose genes protect them from the trauma of stress or tragedy, perhaps to recruit as police, firefighters or soldiers.

Benazir, Sharif

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not be able to contest the election to a parliament," a government statement said.

Anyone who had obtained a loan over two million rupees (33,333 dollars) in their own name or the names of family members which remain unpaid a year after its due date or was written off is also barred.

The laws are seen as yet another direct strike at Benazir and Sharif, both two-time former prime ministers who lead Pakistan's largest political parties and are fervently opposed to Musharraf's military regime.

Benazir has twice this year been convicted of absconding and sentenced to three years' jail with hard labour each time, after failing to return to Pakistan from self-imposed exile to answer corruption charges in court.

Sharif and his wealthy family, who were sent to exile 14 months after Musharraf overthrew the ex-premier in a bloodless coup in October 1999, were accused of defaulting on massive loans taken out during his rule.

"This is obviously targeted at Benazir and Nawaz Sharif," said an official of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N).

"It appears to be aimed at preventing election bids by members of Sharif's family." The law was passed two days before the PML-N votes on whether to replace Sharif with a member of his family as party president to lead the party in campaigns for the October elections.

Sharif family members had loan defaulting cases against them in the High Court in 2000, but the Musharraf government waived them when they agreed to go into exile in December of the same year, and to repay the loans in instalments.

PML-N spokesman Siddiqui Farooq denied the Sharif family had

defaulted on any loans.

"There is no willful default proved against the Sharif family. There are loans outstanding against them but they are routine working loans and are being paid in instalments."

Farooq said he was confident the Sharif family would not be hit by the law, but other politicians might be. "This law will be used by other political opponents to bring them into the fold of parties of government stooges," he said, referring to pro-government political parties.

Sharif is already theoretically barred from returning to politics by a July 6 decree banning ex-premiers from a third term in office, and hijacking and tax evasion convictions.

The Musharraf government claims the deposed premier and his family agreed not to re-enter politics for 10 years in exchange for his release from prison under a deal that sent him into exile.

The PML-N deny any agreement was made. The new provision also bars candidates who have failed to pay utility bills of over 10,000 rupees (166 dollars) for more than six months.

Political analyst Imtiaz Alam said the latest restriction was "a serious critical instrument with which to disqualify candidates at will." "The dice will be loaded against the parties in opposition," he told AFP.

"Based on information from anywhere, candidates can be disqualified at will." The Sharif family would be disqualified "if it is said they have not paid their instalments within one year of the rescheduling of the loan."

He said the provision may have been inspired by the prospect of Sharif's brothers, wife or nephew returning from exile to run for election, or taking his place as PML-N president, Alam said.

First class privilege

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officials whose corruption has been proved by departmental investigation. "It is a dubious and ill-motivated move. Who knows what reason lies behind this," said a top official in the ministry preferring not to be named.

The ministry served the notice on July 20, saying that it has been observed that the allegations against first class officers of different directorates, divisions and organizations under the MOEF is being investigated without the ministry's permission.

Without referring to any rule or provision, the office order signed by a senior assistant secretary said, "It is not lawful to investigate any allegation against the first class officers without prior approval of the ministry." In these circumstances, the circular ordered the authorities concerned to send to the ministry immediately any allegation or matter under investigation for appropriate measures.

The circular was served on the Chairman, Bangladesh Forest Industries Corporation, Dhaka; the Director General of the Directorate of Environment; Chief Conservator of Forest; Director, Bangladesh Forest Research Institution, Chittagong; and the Director,

Two-stroke ban

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autorickshaws plus 1,000 two-stroke automobiles now ply the roads in the metropolitan.

The BRTA, the Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and autorickshaw owners, however, put the number in between 16,000 and 18,000.

A few thousands have been sent outside the capital to avoid a January ban on movement of unfit vehicles, they explained.

The government earlier decided to allow two thousand CNG-run three-wheelers on the city roads, according to sources. At present, around three hundred of CNG three-wheelers are in operation while the number of taxicabs is around three thousand.

Meanwhile, considering the vacuum to be created by the September 1 ban, the communication ministry has felt the need to allow a few thousands more CNG-run three-wheelers and taxicabs. Importers are, however, yet to get any concrete decision on this, sources said.

Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury, general manager (sales) of Uttara Motors Limited, importer of the CNG three-wheelers, told The Daily Star Wednesday that they have already got orders for two thousand vehicles but so far delivered not more than 500.

Every month they can at best deliver 250 three-wheelers, which means it would take around next six month to deliver the rest, he added.

A taxicab businessman said that by September they would add hardly 500 more vehicles to the fleet.

Both the Uttara Motors official and the taxicab businessman felt

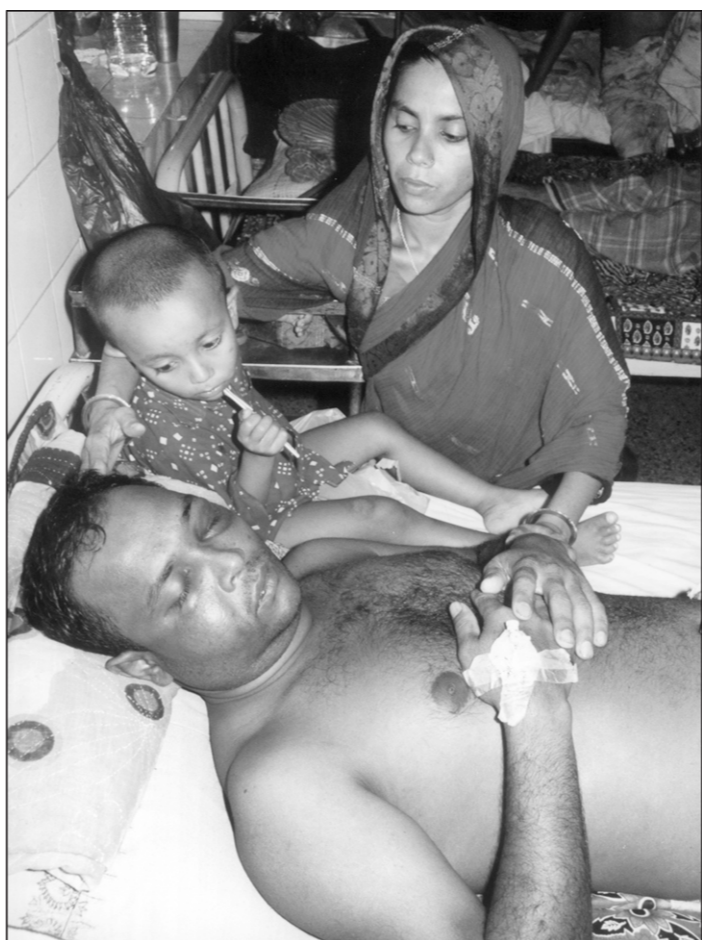
Burial grounds

FROM PAGE 12

ture due to the rising prices of burial materials. Social welfare activists feel that burying the dead in this city already presents a nightmare for the poor, who might have to take to begging to bury their dead if associated costs continue to rise.

A news report some years ago said Japan, which has acute land scarcity and thus burial there is extremely costly, has built multi-storied complexes where there are small cubicles in shelves for corpses to be put in.

As for the Dhaka City, it is perhaps not too much to hope that social welfare agencies of the government would try to keep prices of graves and burial materials at a reasonable level. At the same time, private social welfare organisations, out of humanitarian concern, could also help out the poor with the last rites for their dead by way of rendering financial assistance where possible.



FROM BAD TO WORSE...Mohammad Sekander, 35, from Narayanganj, is hospitalised with dengue fever at the DMCH yesterday. Later, he was diagnosed with blood cancer.