

## Upazila roundup

## NILPHAMARI

## 28 poisonous snakes killed

Aug 14: Local people killed 28 poisonous snakes from a house at Arji Ramkola village in Salar upazila here Tuesday, reports UNB.

Villagers said a cobra was found entering into a hole in the courtyard of the house of one employee of local Public Health Engineering Department at the village.

On seeing the snake, the inmates of the house raised a hue and cry for help. Neighbours rushed to the spot and poured water into the hole. The snakes then came out from the hole one after another.

A large number of onlookers gathered the house to see the snakes.

## BARISAL

## BKB to disburse Tk 56.97 cr agri-loan

Aug 14: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Barisal region has undertaken a comprehensive programme to disburse Tk 56.97 crore agriculture loans among the farmers of 11 southern districts of Barisal Agriculture Zone during the current fiscal year, reports BBS.

According to an official source, of the total, Tk 30.85 crore will be disbursed as short-term loan and Tk 26.12 crore as medium and long-term loans.

Tk 5.20 crore will be disbursed in Barisal district, Tk 6.70 crore in Bhola, Tk 4.75 crore in Pirojpur, Tk 2.00 crore in Jhalakati, Tk 5.70 crore in Patuakhali, Tk 6.75 crore in Barguna, Tk 7.90 crore in Faridpur, Tk 4.27 crore in Gopalganj, Tk 4.20 crore in Madaripur, Tk 4.80 crore in Shariatpur and Tk 4.70 crore in Rajbari district.

About one lakh farmers of these districts will get this loan this year, the source said.

## SATKHIRA

## Under-trial prisoners languishing in jail

Aug 14: Hundreds of under-trial prisoners are languishing in jails here — some of them awaiting trial for six years, a jail source said, reports UNB.

There are 8,536 civil and 2,824 criminal cases pending for disposal for a long time. One Additional Sessions Judge, out of three, finds it very difficult to cope with the huge number of back-log cases. The other two posts have been vacant for a long time.

Local people have urged the authorities to fill up the vacant posts of judges for early disposal of the pending cases.

## PATUAKHALI

## Kirtankhola losing navigability

Aug 14: The river Kirtankhola, flowing east of Barisal town is rapidly losing its navigability posing a serious threat to river traffic because of siltation on the one hand and threatening erosion on the other, reports UNB.

Huge shoals have emerged at different points of the river with deposits of alluvial silt flowing from upstream, which is said to have increased three times this year.

The IWTA launch terminal at Barisal has been shifted to a new location which also may become inoperative soon.

The IWTA has taken up a programme for excavation of a new canal by the side of the newly formed shoal near the launch ghat. It is also learnt that the authority has decided to engage a dredger with capacity of dredging 200 sqr yards per hour.

Last year, Tk 20 lakh had been spent on dredging of the river but substantial improvement was not noticed in the navigability of the river.

According to another report, a vast tract of land under Charukua and Charmonai unions, a few miles off Barisal town has gone into the river Kirtankhola. Many people lost their homesteads and agricultural land due to erosion of the river. Charmonai, an island has been worst-affected.

Hundreds of acres of arable land are said to have been washed away by the river during the last five years. The workshop of the BIWTA standing on the river bank may also be affected if erosion continues at the present rate, it was feared.

## PIROJPUR

## Vast tract of land washed away by river Kacha

Aug 14: The turbulent river Kacha washed away a vast tract of land along its bank in the district during the last few months, reports UNB.

Sources said a number of hats, ghats and bazars like Hularhat, Charkhali, Chahoria, Telkhalai and Tushkhalai were seriously affected by the continuous erosion.

According to another report, about 5000 people of the unions of Ilsha, Gazipur, Gangarampur, Kachia, Shibpur, Dhalla, Nazirpur and Ghoserhat of Bhola region had been rendered homeless by the erosion of the furious rivers Meghna and Tetulia.

The situation turned worst recently, as the rivers Lohalia, Pyra, Andhermanik, Kazal, Sugandha and Aralkhan started eroding their banks.

## RAJSHAHI

## RU hails passage of 11th, 12th Amendment Bills

Aug 14: The Rajshahi University Syndicate at a meeting Monday hailed the passage of 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills, reports UNB.

The syndicate members also congratulated the members of the Jatiya Sangsad for their commendable role in switching over to the parliamentary system.

Syndicate, the highest policy making body of the university expected that the hopes and aspirations of the masses will be fulfilled with the introduction of the parliamentary form of government.

## C' NAWABGANJ

## Beggars on rise

Aug 14: Beggars are on rise in the town here causing great inconvenience to the dwellers. There has been a continuous influx of beggars both male and female from the remote areas of the district to eke out their living in the town.

Law and order situation is deteriorating in the town as the poor floating people resort to various anti-social and immoral activities in the absence of job opportunities to maintain their livelihood.

A large number of destitute people is seen crowding various places like railway station, bus station, nearby markets and corridors of different government offices for alms.

Local people urged the authorities to take schemes to rehabilitate them in cluster villages in the urban areas to ensure serene atmosphere in the town.

## MANIKGANJ

## Indian sarees recovered, 4 arrested

Aug 14: Police arrested four persons and recovered Indian sarees worth about Tk two lakh from their possession at Aricha ferry ghat Sunday evening, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided a Dhaka bound coach (No DA Metro JA 5448) from Satkhira and seized 362 pieces of Indian sarees including Organdi and South Katan brands.

The arrested are Shahiduzzaman (Pinto), Harun-or-Rashid, Jamaluddin and Hiru. They hailed from Jessore district.

A case has been filed with Shibbalaya police in this connection.

## PABNA

## One arrested, pipegun recovered

Aug 14: Police arrested a man and recovered a pipegun with five rounds of bullets Wednesday from Arifpur village of Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house of Rabul Islam (25), of the village and nabbed him with the gun.

Local people alleged that Rabul was creating terror and involved in various anti-social activities in the village for a long time. So long nobody dared to protest the criminal, it is learnt.

A case was lodged in this connection.



RANGAMATI: Tribals who took shelter in Indian camps across the border returning home in large numbers. They have reportedly narrated harrowing tales of sufferings in the camps. — Star photo

## Plea to protect democratic rights of CHT tribals, non-locals

RANGAMATI, Aug 14: Parbatta Chattagram Nagorik Adhikar Sangrakshak Committee (CHT civil rights protection committee) has put forward an 18-point charter of demands for protection of democratic rights and welfare of both tribals and non-locals, reports UNB.

The demands were voiced at a rally held here on August 8. Thousands of tribals and non-locals of the region attended the rally presided over by Convenor of the Committee Alhaj Nazrul Islam.

Chairman of Rangamati Local Government Council Gautam Dewan and Dipankar Talukdar, MP, addressed the rally, among others, expressing full support to the 18-point demand.

The demands include solution of problems relating to the socio-economic development of the region with the involvement of people's elected representatives who should be allowed to take part in the meeting of the Chittagong Development Board and other development agencies.

The public representatives must be allowed to carry out their responsibilities without interference from any quarter, and the recent legislation granting special status to the Chittagong must be implemented in full, the charter of demands said.

The economic demands include a master plan for improvement of road communication in the region and an overall development of the Rangamati town and setting up of a proposed industrial estate.

The Committee demands measures to prevent erosion and long and short-term rehabilitation programme for returnees from Indian camps as well as the people and areas affected by the last devastating cyclone.

The rally also demanded afforestation to be allowed in the private sector, revival of permit system for extraction and marketing of forest products, refixation of royalty for fishing in the Kaptai lake and equal preference in employment and education for non-locals keeping in tact the special quota for tribals.

It was alleged at the rally that the people were being subjected to harassment in the name of combating tribal insurgency which, it said, should be stopped.

An amount of Tk 15-crore has already been sanctioned to rehabilitate the returned tribal refugees, the members of outlawed shantibahini who are surrendered and the people displaced by the misguided miscreants, Samiran said.

The tribal refugees who have crossed the border in extreme hardships narrated harrowing tales to inhuman torture and atrocities, hunger, pestilence and corruption by camp supervisors and shantibahini cadres.

The injured, including conductor of the coach Jahangir Hossain, were admitted to Comilla General Hospital. Police seized the vehicles but drivers of the bus and the truck were absconding.

The deceased was identified as Majibur Rahman (45), of Balsalghar under Devidwar upazila. A case has been lodged with Devidwar police.

Two passengers were killed and 10 others injured, five of them seriously, when a Chittagong bound night coach dashed a truck parked near Padder bazar on Comilla by-pass recently.

The injured, including conductor of the coach Jahangir Hossain, were admitted to Comilla General Hospital. Police seized the vehicles but drivers of the bus and the truck were absconding.

The victims Shathi (6), and Pakhi (5), daughter of Robi of the village suddenly slipped in to the deep water of the river while they were taking bath.

Local people recovered the bodies and a case of unnatural death has been filed in this connection.

JCD sweeps Bhawal Jamalpur College union polls

GHORASAL, Aug 14: Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept the election of Bhawal Jamalpur College Students Union held here Monday, reports UNB.

Md Jahangir Alam and Adyel Miah were elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the 16-member college students union. JCD won a full panel victory.

Chief, Seed Development and Inspector of BSFC, Nazmul Alam, Chief Productivity and GM of Setabgonj Sugar Mills attended the meeting.

AKM Abdul Momen, GM, Panchagarh Sugar Mills emphasised the need for more sugar production for making the country self-reliant in sugar. He also urged the growers to apply scientific method of sugar cultivation in the country. He called upon the mill officials to visit the cane fields regularly to co-ordinate the growers in this regard.

Work on power distribution project in progress

HABIGANJ, Aug 14: Work on the implementation of a modern power distribution project and an iron remover plant is in progress in the Paurasava area, reports UNB.

The two large schemes were taken up at a total cost of Taka 15.20 crore funded by China and the Nether lands.

Paurashava Chairman Shahid Chowdhury told a press conference here that Tk one crore 67 lakh would be spent for improving civic facilities in the Paurashava area during the current fiscal year.

He said 45 development projects will be taken up for implementation during the new fiscal year (1991-92).

The electrification project envisages installation of 24 KM distribution lines, 55 transformers and 33/11 KV electric sub-stations at a cost of taka 14 crore aided by China.

The iron remover plant, financed by the Nether lands Government, will cost Taka 1.20 crore.

Teenaged girl kidnapped in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Aug 14: A teenaged girl student was allegedly kidnapped by some miscreants on Saturday last, reports UNB.

Local people said Asma Khatun (13), a student of class seven, was abducted by a group of miscreants while she was returning home from school.

A case was lodged with Satkhira police in this connection.

A boy was run over by a speeding truck on the Satkhira-Kaliganj road Tuesday.

Witnesses said Monirul (12), a restaurant employee, was crushed to death by the Satkhira bound truck when he was crossing the road on Tuesday morning.

The driver of the truck fled away along with his vehicle.

Padma devours 1500 homesteads

From Our Correspondent

SHARIATPUR, Aug 14: The mighty Padma devoured 1500 homesteads in the districts rendering 200 families homeless during the last few months.

According to the sources, two and a half kilometre area of Charutra, Noyapara union under Narai upazila, Kachikata union under Zanjira upazila were devoured by the river.

The affected villagers are Bosarchar, Cowniakanda, Sorarsur and Dolachar.

Hundreds of erosion affected victims are preparing to migrate to the capital and other towns in search of their livelihood while some of them have erected shacks by the side of Narai-Sorarsur, Gorisar and WASA roads.

Noapara Government Primary Schools, Sorarsur launch ghat have already been devoured while Sorarsur High School and Sorarsur Government Primary School may also be washed away very soon by the river, it is learnt Zilur Rashid Chowdhury, DC of Shariatpur upazila visited the affected Charutra and Noapara unions and assured them of necessary help.

Kishoreganj-Bhairab bus journey uncomfortable

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 14: Journey by bus on the Kishoreganj-Bhairab road has become hazardous and overloading of buses often leads to accident causing untold sufferings to the passengers.

According to sources, the law-enforcing agency cannot find out the drivers responsible for the accident as they use fake name and addresses without having any valid licences.

Besides, bus conductors realise excessive fare and often misbehave with the passengers. They do not maintain any time-table to reach Bhairab from Kishoreganj though the distance is about 33 miles.

Buses plying on the road are of deplorable condition and often face engine troubles on their way.

Absence of a waiting shed at Nagua bus stand here causes much inconveniences to the travellers. There is no latrine or urinals on the bus stand. Passengers are to remain standing for buses under the open sky. A large number of passengers suffer much during summer and rainy seasons.

Old man's body recovered

Another report adds: Kaptai police recovered the body of an old man from reserve forest of Bangchari under Kaptai upazila on the information of forest officials.

Police and forest officials said the body was found decomposed hanging from the branch of a tree with a nylon-rope.

They said the death might have occurred 10 to 15 days ago and the cause remained unknown.

The body was sent to Rangamati Sadar hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with Kaptai police in this connection.

making the situation more difficult.

The school-going children very often become victims of road accidents and there are numbers of motor repairing workshops on roadsides, occupying half of the roads that impede the easy movement of vehicles, the sources said.

The people of the paurashava have urged the authorities to take concerned necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the people and fix places for parking rickshaws and implement the traffic rules.

Sugarcane farming plan

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARI, Aug 14: Panchagarh Sugar Mills has taken up a programme to bring 11,500 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation in five upazilas of Panchagarh district during the current season.

AKM Abdul Momen, GM, Panchagarh Sugar Mills, has inaugurated the early plantation programme of sugarcane on July 30. A discussion meeting of the officers, employees and cane-growers was held at the field of a cane-grower Alhaj Mohiruddin Ahmed, Alhaj Mohiruddin Ahmed was in the chair. AKM Rezaul Karim,

Local people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to construct sheds on the bus stand and take other necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers. A large number of rick-

## Notes from Comilla

COMILLA, Aug 14: Kotwali police have arrested two brothers and recovered arms and ammunitions from the house of late Hafizuddin in Bhatpara Poura area, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police raided the house recently and recovered one pipe gun, 4 rounds of SLR ammunition, one ram dao and two swords.

They arrested Imran Khan (26), and his brother Helal (22), both sons of late Hafizuddin.

A case was lodged in this connection.

In another operation, Burchang police recovered a pipe gun with four bullets from village Bakshimul under Burchang upazila and arrested one Abdur Raquae.

One killed in clash

One person was killed and 40 others were injured in an armed clash between two rival groups over the possession of a piece of land, police said today.

Of the injured, 10 were rushed to Comilla General Hospital and admitted there. Some others were taken to Devidwar upazila hospital.

The deceased was identified as Majibur Rahman (45), of Balsalghar under Devidwar upazila. A case has been lodged with Devidwar police.

Two girls drowned in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Aug 14: Two minor girls of village Nagarhat in Badarganj upazila drowned in the river Jamuna Friday, family sources said, reports UNB.

The victims Shathi (6), and Pakhi (5), daughter of Robi of the village suddenly slipped in to the deep water of the river while they were taking bath.

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Local people urged the authorities to take immediate steps to construct sheds on the bus stand and take other necessary steps to mitigate the sufferings of the passengers. A large number of rick-