

District roundup

MANIKGANJ
Killing of Ratan Sen protested
 Aug 5: District CPB organised a rally Sunday to protest the killing of Ratan Sen, president of Khulna district CPB by some miscreants, reports UNB.
 Presided over the Azharul Islam, president of the district unit, the rally was also addressed by local Awami League leaders Muslehuddin Khan and Mohiuddin and JSD leader Iqbal Hossain.
 Ratan Sen was killed in broad day light on July 31.
 The speakers expressed grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. They said the terrorists, mastans and hoodlums have held the entire population hostage. They slated the government for its failure to provide the minimum security of the people.
 They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Ratan Sen.

MAGURA
1726 tons of wheat distributed
 Aug 5: A total of 1726 tons of wheat was distributed among 5524 destitute families in four thanas of the district under VOD programme during the last fiscal year.
 According to an official source, each family was disbursed 31.25 kg of wheat per month.
 Thana-wise allotment of wheat were 534 tons in Sadar, 212 tons in Sreepur, 284 tons in Salikha, 552 tons in Mohammapur.
 Magura municipal area had been given 28 tons and Arpara 14 tons under the programme.

BARISAL
Unidentified body recovered
 Aug 5: Kotwali thana police has recovered body of an unidentified person from the river Kirtankhola, reports BSS.
 According to police sources the body was floating beside the dockyard of BIWC.
 Another message says one unidentified young boy was crushed under the wheel of a Banarpara bound passenger bus near Narayanpur about 15 kilometres from here on Saturday.

CHUADANGA
Minor girl run over by speeding bus
 Aug 5: A minor girl was run over by a speeding bus at Ahukdia Bazar on Chuadanga-Meherpur road on Monday, reports UNB.
 Police said Lucky (10) daughter of Sirajul Islam of village Ahukdia of Sadar thana of the district was hit by mini bus and died instantaneously.
 The driver managed to flee the scene with the vehicle.
 The body was sent to morgue for autopsy and a case has been filed with the police.

FARIDPUR
Press club executives
 Aug 5: The members of Faridpur Press Club elected Munshi Harun-ar-Rashid as president and Mafiz Imam Milon as secretary of their executive committee for the year '92-93, reports UNB.
 Munshi Harun is the district correspondent of UNB and Imam Milon writes for Dainik Janata.
 M M Zilani Runu from Faridpur Barta, a local newspaper, was elected as treasurer of the committee.
 The election of 11 member executive committee was held at Press Club premises on Thursday.

COMILLA
Thief beaten to death
 Aug 5: An alleged thief was beaten to death by angry people at Kashipur village of Bijoypur union on Wednesday, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said a theft was committed in a house of Kashipur village on the night of July 28. While the thieves were escaping with the booty the villagers caught one and beat him mercilessly.
 Later the man was taken to union parishad office where he succumbed to his injuries.
 A case has been filed with the local police.

DINAJPUR
Housewife commits suicide
 Aug 5: A young housewife of Bhadra village in Chirirbandar thana of the district has allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, reports UNB.
 Rasheda Khatun (22), wife of Salfur Rahman took her life reportedly over a family feud, sources said.
 Rasheda was rushed to Dinajpur General Hospital where the doctors on duty declared her dead.
 A case was filed with the police.

BRAHMANBARIA
Rival groups clash leaves one dead
 A boy of village Kurighar in Nabingnar thana of the district was killed in a clash between two rival groups, reports UNB.
 Witnesses said the clash occurred on July 26 and ensued from a quarrel between the two neighbours over cattle grazing in a jute field. At one stage one neighbour slaughtered Obaidullah (7) with a sharp ramdao on the spot.
 A case was lodged with the police.

AGRI-VARSITY
BAUCSU election to be held Aug 16
 Aug 5: The election schedule of Bangladesh Agricultural University Central Student Union (BAUCSU) and hall unions have been partially changed, said an election commission notification.
 According to the refixed schedule BAUCSU and hall union elections will now be held on August 16 from 8 am to 1-30 pm without any break.
 Nomination papers will be distributed among the intended candidates on August 4 and it will be submitted to the election commission of BAU on August 6.
 Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on August 9 and the withdrawal date of nomination papers is on August 10.
 The notification further said those who have already submitted their nomination papers on July 30 are allowed to withdraw their nominations and have to submit new nominations as per refixed schedule. However, those who will not withdraw their papers will be considered as valid.

JAMALPUR
Seminar on wheat cultivation held
 Aug 5: A seminar on wheat cultivation and production was held at regional Agricultural Research Institution auditorium here under joint auspices of Bangladesh Wheat Research Centre and Agriculture Extension Department recently, reports BSS.
 Md Faziul Haq, Additional Director, Agriculture Extension Department, Mymensingh, presided over the seminar.
 Agricultural officers of Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Jamalpur and Sherpur districts participated in the seminar.

MADARIPUR
Sadar hospital beset with problems
 Aug 5: The Sadar hospital is plagued with multifarious problems owing to lack of blood bank and shortage of medicines, doctors and nurses, reports UNB.
 Patients coming from far flung areas are to go back disappointed in absence of proper treatment facilities.
 Many emergency patients are being packed like sardines on the floor and veranda of the hospital due to shortage beds. Moreover, in the absence of blood bank, serious patients are to suffer a lot. They are to move to distant places for surgical operation incurring huge expenditures.
 The doctors and other staff members of the hospital have also been facing serious problems in the absence of residential quarters.
 Local people repeatedly urged the authorities to equip the hospital with modern amenities but no step has yet been taken in this regard.



MANIKGANJ:Harunur Rashid Munnu, a local MP, distributing relief among the erosion-affected people of Govribardia village under Harirampur thana recently. — Star Photo

Hundreds of erosion-hit people in distress

PABNA, Aug 5: At least 300 families in eight villages of Bera thana were rendered homeless due to continuous erosion by the river Padma, reports UNB.
 The villages are: Bijoiganj, Nakalia, Madhupur, Nagarbari, Raghunathpur, Ganapatdia, Khanpura and Sarasia.
 Anisuddin Manju, Thana Nirbahi Officer of Bera told UNB that Taka 50,000 and 3 metric tons of wheat have been sanctioned for the erosion affected families.
 Meanwhile, low lying areas of Faridpur, Bera and Sujanager thanas have been inundated due to incessant rainfall during the last two days.
 Local met office recorded 86 mm rainfall during the period.
 District administration sources said, jute and paddy on about 200 acres of land have been damaged.
 Another report from Jamalpur says: Erosion by the rivers Jamuna, Brahmaputra and Doshani rendered about 500 families homeless in the district during the last 25 days.
 The worst affected unions are: Bokhiganj, Dewanganj and Madarganj.
 Homeless people of these areas took shelter on the nearby embankment, said a Union Parishad chairman.
 Local MPs Mirza Azam and Abul Kalam Azad urged the government to arrange relief for the affected people without further delay.
 A report from Sirajganj says: An old woman died of diarrhoea and 36 other affected people from the erosion-hit areas of the district, were admitted to hospital.
 Diarrhoea broke out among the people displaced due to the continued erosion by the river Jamuna and General Hospital sources here said about 1000 people were attacked by the disease during last one month.
 Furkon Begum (52), a housewife of village Dhanbandi, died at the hospital here this morning.
 Meanwhile, the Jamuna continued to swell and erode its banks forcing more families to move to safer places leaving their homestead.
 A total of 305 families in five thanas of the district were rendered homeless due to the erosion during the last 24 hours.
 With this, 1152 families have so far been made homeless in those five thanas during the last 10 days, WDB sources said.
 5,000 acres of arable and fallow land and dwelling houses have also been devoured by the river during the period.
 The affected people who have taken shelter in flood centre and different embankments, are passing their days in agony as there was no supply of adequate relief materials and safe drinking water.
 Our Manikganj correspondent adds: The erosion of the river Padma is going on and over 2,000 people of 26 villages have rendered homeless during the last 15 days.
 Standing crops on 3,000 acres of land have also been eroded by the river during the period.
 According to reports, the erosion of the river is taking serious turn day by day and by this time the river has eroded two educational institutions, five mosques excluding other establishments.
 The affected villages at riverside Malushi, Bagmara, Kumerkandi, Gowborodia, Mohammadpur and Sudra Kandi in Kanchanpur union leaving 800 families homeless. About 300 families were devoured in village Kadamtoli, Bahadurpur, Bajrodanga at Gopinathpur union, 230 families in village Ujankandi, Niamatpur, Voverdangi, Madakandi and Chawki Hata at Ramkrishnopur union, 320 families homeless in village Boyra, Vatikandi, Harukandi and Brammankandi at Boyra and Harukandi union, 400 families were homeless in village Agtora, Kulukanda, Vobanipur, Zalia, Konabari, Meckia, Alinagar and Pastora at Dhulsura union of Horirampur thana.

Boat dacoity regular on river routes in dists

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 5: The river routes in Sirajganj, Tangail, Pabna and Manikganj have become the safe places for the pirates and consequently journey and carrying of goods in these routes is now risky.
 A large number of engine propelled country boats plying on these routes especially on Jagannathganj-Sirajganj, Sirajganj-Kazipur, Sirajganj-Bhuapur, Sohagpur-Bhuapur, Enayetpur-Bhuapur, Chowhali-Nagarbari, Noklia-Chowhali, and Chandanganj-Shahzadpur carry both passengers and merchandise goods. Pirates are active on these routes and boat dacoities are taking place every week.
 In most cases, law enforcing agencies are not even informed about the dacoities. The absence of police action has created the situation. On the other hand, the complainants are harassed in different ways.
 The pirates use high powered engine boats and carry fire arms during the time of dacoity. The dacoits are so organised that during police action, main culprits are not found. The local people suspect the these people have connection with some dishonest law enforcing agencies.
 The local people have urged the concerned authorities to take steps to stop the dacoities on these routes for safe journey of the passengers and carrying of goods for meeting the requirement of the people of these regions.
 Another reports adds: Taka two crore ninety lakh budget of Sirajganj Municipality is declared here recently for 1992-93 fiscal year. The amount is Taka 10 lakh more than the budget of 1991-92 fiscal year. The ADC (general) and administrator of Sirajganj Municipality declared the annual budget.
 It is gathered that out of the total amount Taka one crore twenty three lakh have been estimated as own income of the municipality and the rest amount is expected as the government grant. Own income



RAJBARI: The pourshava bazar area of the district has become the depot of garbage which causing inconvenience greatly. — Star Photo

Drug addicts on rise

From Our Correspondent
 SYLHET, Aug 5: The number of drug addicts is increasing alarmingly throughout the district causing grave concern for the guardians especially and the people in general.
 It is observed that most of the drug addicts are young and only ten per cent of them are not the teenagers, in both the rural and urban areas.
 Local people have alleged that Sylhet town and the other important places including the thana headquarters and commercial points in the both rural and urban areas have turned into the open markets for the drugs. A good number of the materials are allegedly smuggled from the borders.
 These youngmen are addicted to intoxicants and drugs like liquor, opium, morphine, tablets, mritasanjibani sura, and some other kinds of liquid containing alcoholic ingredients, the source informed.
 It is reported that, most of the addicts visit pharmacies and medicine stores after the sunset for collecting these intoxicants on payment.
 These are even sold at comparatively cheaper rates, informed a number of leading people of different areas. Some organised gangs are engaged in transporting all these drugs cheating the eyes of the members of the law-enforcing agencies, it is alleged. Some times, some members of the law-enforcing agencies are also found helping the drug traders for reasons known best to them.

Hundreds suffering from lathyrism in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Aug 5: Hundreds of patients suffering from lathyrism are seen begging for bare survival in absence of proper treatment and rehabilitation, reports UNB.
 In almost every villages of the district, they are found moving door to door for alms.
 A hospital planned to be established here still remain unapproved. Lathyrism has been spreading here with about 1,000 patients reported in Atapura, Madon, Kendua, Purbadhala and Barhatta thanas of the district.
 The government carried out a survey and several NGOs took up a few projects to help combat lathyrism in the area. But the projects were abandoned following allegations of misappropriation of funds and corruption.
 Another project titled "Self development" under which foodgrains used to be distributed among the suffering kids and mothers also wound up following allegations of corruption resorted to by local chairmen and members.
 Local leaders demanded proper treatment and rehabilitation of the existing patients and steps to combat the disease.
 The post of Thana Education Officer at Purbadhala thana of the district has been vacant for the last two years creating problems for primary education in the thana.
 Teachers are not doing their duties properly taking advantage of the absence of the TEO, it was alleged.
 The guardians of the locality urged the authority to fill up the post without further delay.

38 miscreants held in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Aug 5: In an anti-terrorist drive police arrested 38 miscreants from different areas of the town and recovered some deadly weapons in their possession in last fortnight, reports UNB.
 Police said among the arrested some were identified as smugglers and fugitive criminals.
 The recovered weapons include ramdao, sword, axe and knives of various types.
 Another report from Kushtia adds: Police arrested six people on charges of a murder from Gopalpur village in sadar thana on Friday.

Two including minor girl beaten to death

MANIKGANJ, Aug 5: Two people including a minor girl were beaten to death in separate incidents, police said here today, reports UNB.
 Rabeya Khatun (20) daughter of Naimuddin of Charpara in Saturaia thana was allegedly killed by her brothers Rashid and Sakur Ali on Monday.
 The assailants kept the body hanging from the ceiling of her room to prove that she committed suicide.
 Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. None was arrested in this connection.
 In another incident, a maid servant of the house of one Rahmat Ali of the Pourashava area in Sadar was beaten to death some unknown miscreants.
 Neighbours said the victim Magi (12) was kidnapped by the miscreants on Friday. They took her to a nearby jungle, violated her one after another and left the body after beating her to death.
 On information, police recovered the body. A case has been filed but none was arrested in this connection.
 Indiscriminate felling of fruit bearing trees is continuing almost unabatedly in various parts of the district causing ecological imbalance.
 Brickfield owners violating government ban are using the firewood to burn their bricks instead of coal. And the poverty stricken people are compelled to sell their trees to earn their livelihood, sources added.
 Coconut, mango, palm and date trees are also being sold to the brickfield owners in large numbers, local people said.
 While taking to UNB some brickfield owners of the district said that short supply and high price of coal compelled them to purchase firewood to carry on their business.

Bamboo shortage hampers erection of houses

From Our Correspondent
 KURIGRAM, Aug 5: Erection of new houses and repair of old ones are being hampered greatly for want of bamboo while the traditional cottage industry depend on bamboo facing a set back.
 It may be mentioned that bamboo is widely used in erection of houses in the rural areas. About 90 per cent of the dwelling and other houses throughout Kurigram district are kutcha and the material mainly used for the purpose is bamboo.
 In the face of such problem, these people may give up their traditional profession and the village-oriented cottage industry may face closure.
 The price of bamboo has gone up sharply. At present, the price of a piece of bamboo ranges between Taka 35 to 50. As such, 80 per cent of the people can not afford to purchase bamboo at such an exorbitant price. Consequently, most of the people can not repair their worn-out houses.
 It deserves mentions that during the summer or rainy season many of the dwelling houses of the locality are either blown off by storm or got damaged by rains and flood.
 The sufferings of those who depend for their bread on bamboo made articles have multiplied as a result of the rise in price of bamboo. About 6000 families in the district used to earn their livelihood by selling household and fancy goods of bamboo.
 By this time, many of them have been thrown out of employment and are now passing their days in great miseries.
 RANOPUR, Aug 5: Two people were killed in a road mishap on Saturday at Mojinpur bridge on Bodarganj road in the town, reports UNB.
 Police said two speeding trucks coming from opposite direction hit a rickshaw and killed its passenger Foizar Rahman (40) on the spot.

Notes from Manikganj

From Our Correspondent
 MANIKGANJ, Aug 5: Fish fry are being caught in different parts of the district defying the government ban.
 The government has banned catching of fish fry below nine inches allover the country to increase fish output. But huge quantity of different types of fish fry including: katla, mrigal, karfuc, silverkap are being sold in the markets of Savar, Dhamrai Karaniganj, Dohar, Nobabganj, Saturaia, Dhor, Paulatpur, Shibbalaya, Harirampur, Singhair. Some influential persons are engaged in this practice, it is alleged.

Crimes on increase

Crimes have been increased in the district recently.
 Thirty theft, 26 cattle lifting, 2 kidnapping, 2 killings, 6 dacoities took place here in the last seven days.
 According to the police sources, Dhamrai police in recent raid has rounded up 32 persons for their alleged involvement with anti-social activities.
Adulterated food sale rampant
 Adulterated and rotten food are being sold in the hotels and restaurants of the district.
 According to the reports, there are a large number of hotels and restaurants in Manikganj and Savar. Different food items are prepared in these hotels in a unhygienic way. Mosquitoes, flies and dusts are often found in those food items. The owners of the hotels also sell rotten food causing health hazard to the customers.
 Local people urged the concerned authorities to take punitive action against those unscrupulous persons.

Lack of civic amenities

The inhabitants of Manikganj Pourashava have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of civic amenities.
 The roads and markets of the town are in bad shape. The supply of pure drinking water in the pourashava is irregular. There are 210 tubewells in the pourashava in which 50 per cent remain out of order.
 Lack of adequate number of street light in the town causing much problems to the town dwellers. There is only one hospital with 50-bed which beset with manifold problems.

7 development projects taken up

UNB report adds: Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEB) has taken up seven development projects in the district at a cost of Taka 4 crore.
 Officials said the projects included construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts and development of hats and bazars.
 The work on the projects is progressing fast and is expected to be completed by the next year.
 On completion of the work, road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent.

Relief materials distributed

The Dhaka-based Shivalaya Upazila Samity distributed relief materials among the erosion-affected people of Shivalaya, Teota and Aroa unions under Shivalaya thana recently.
 According to a press release, the relief goods include rice and baby food. The relief team was led by A B M Ashrafuddin, President and Naim Ranjan Das, General Secretary of the samity and Abdur Razak, Chairman, Shivalaya Union Parishad.
 Hundreds of people of Shivalaya, Daulatpur and Harirampur thanas under Manikganj district have been rendered homeless due to continuous erosion of the river Padma.

Press Club executives

NOAGGAN, Aug 5: The election of Saphar Thana Press Club of the district was held here recently amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.
 Maulana Siddiqur Rahman, Md. Shahjahan, Dr. Ashraf Islam, Abu Ali Md Ali and Md. Nurul Islam were elected as President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer of the club respectively.
 Other members of the press club are Azhar Ali, Abdul Aziz, Fazle Bari, Kafiluddin Chowdhury, Ghulam Mustafa Biswas, Azad Chowdhury, Al-Faruk Chowdhury, Anisur Rahman, Ataur Rahman and Mohitruddin.
 Another report adds: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mub-ammad Ali inaugurated poura kutcha bazar at a simple ceremony recently.
 Presided over by Rezaul Karim, President of the Kutcha Bazar Samity, the function was attended by the elite of the town.
 With the opening of the bazar, a long felt demand of the people has been fulfilled.