

**Squirrels, monkeys would be freed on campus to beautify environment**

**From RU Correspondent**  
**RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY.**  
 Sept 27: A number of squirrels and monkeys will be brought at Rajshahi University and let them free at the campus. This information was disclosed by Vice-Chancellor Prof M Eusuff Ali himself recently.  
 Addressing at the opening session of summer science course at Physics gallery Prof Eusuff said that trees of all kinds of fruits will be provided at the campus with a view to increase the natural beauty of the campus. As a part of social afforestation programme squirrels and monkeys will be let free at the campus to add beauty on the campus, he added. Prof M Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Physics Department presided over the function.

**Bright prospect of ground-nut cultivation in Majdee Court**

**MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali).** Sept 27: Prospect of ground-nut cultivation is bright in all over Hatia island of the district, reports UNB.  
 According to agriculture experts, a vast tract of sandy land across the river bank and char areas are suitable for cultivation of the crop.  
 According to a survey report, about 5,000 acres of sandy land have so far been brought under the cultivation. But major areas have been lying fallow in the absence of planned farming.  
 The land needs ploughing once or twice before cultivation and the crop hardly requires irrigation and fertilisers, the report said adding the farmers can harvest about one metric ton of crop worth about Tk 20,000 in a hectare with minimum investment.  
 "Each ground-nut contains 40 per cent oil and as such one maund oil can easily be extracted from 100 kgs of ground-nuts," the survey revealed.  
 The report said more 50,000 acres could be brought under the ground-nut cultivation with the proper motivation of the farmers and proper patronisation of the government in the island.  
 The report suggested the authority to take proper initiative to bring the vast unused lands under the ground-nut cultivation to usher in a new era of economic prosperity of the farmers.

**Microbus carrying smuggled sarees seized**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**KISHOREGANJ.** Sept 27: The police of Detective Branch (DB) of Kishoreganj seized a microbus and recovered a huge quantity of Indian sarees from Chandiber area in Bhairab town on September 16 last. DB police sources said. Three persons were also arrested in this connection.  
 Acting on a secret information, a police team led by sub-inspector Samiruddin seized the microbus (Dhaka Cha 02-2971) which was moving suspiciously in the town. Police later recovered huge quantities of Indian sarees worth about Taka 2 lakh from the microbus. Police took Shahidul Haque alias Khokan, an alleged smuggler, Delwar Hossain Dulal, driver and Akram, helper of the microbus into custody.  
 A case was registered with Bhairab police station in this connection.

**Over 20,000 children deprived of primary education in Madaripur**

**MADARIPUR.** Sept 27: Over 20,000 children of the district are deprived of primary education due to abject poverty, river erosion and lack of interest of the guardians, reports UNB.  
 According to official sources, of the 51,603 children of school-going age in Shilchar thana, 43,743 are attending the schools. The rest 7,860 children remained out of schools.  
 In Rajoir, 32,380 children out of 37,883 took admission in existing primary schools in the current calendar year. Remaining 5,503 children are deprived of education.  
 The admission rate of Kalkini thana is 81 per cent while Madaripur Sadar thana is 92 per cent. In Kalkini 39,401 out of 43,516 children are going to school. The remaining 4,115 are out of schools.  
 In Madaripur, out of 50,065 children, 46,689 are going to schools. The remaining 3,376 are deprived of basic education.

**70 year-old man killed in road accident**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**KISHOREGANJ.** Sept 27: A 70-year old man was run over by a bus at Meghna ferry ghat near Bhairab town recently.  
 The victim identified as Abdul Gafur of village Nilganj-Bazarpura in Kishoreganj Sadar thana died on the spot when Dhaka-bound bus hit a rickshaw from behind in which he was traveling.  
 Police seized the bus. However, the driver managed to escape. A case has been filed with Bhairab police.



**JAMALPUR:** Hundreds of river erosion-hit victims who lost their homesteads in the recent Jamuna river erosion took shelter on the play ground of Kulkhandi Madarasha in Islampur thana. Most of the victims alleged that they were not provided with any sort of relief. Many such temporary shelters were erected in the district but the district administration allegedly failed to provide them with adequate relief.

**No significant increase in cargo handling in Mongla Port**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JESSORE.** Sept 27: The only sea-port for northern-southern and south-western zones of the country, Mongla Port is screaming under brunt of problems following lack of planning for development hampering national trade far long.  
 According to Mongla Port source, all business activities in this port have largely decreased with sharp decrease in cargo handlings.  
 Refusal by foreign vessels to catch this port due to mounting impossibility in Poshur river channel has brought drastic fall in loading and unloading of cargo turning it into complete disarray, the source added.  
 Reports received from various quarters say that entrance and exit through the Poshur river channel connecting the Heron point at the Bay of Bengal with the Mongla Port become risky, for any river-crafts not to speak of heavy vessels. Steady fall in navigability of the channel over the years, has led to this situation reports say.  
 According to another source, growing silts and shoals on the channel are threatening to the future of the port. Regular dredging to keep the channel navigable all the year round, has aggravated the situation, the source informed.  
 Despite growing problems in the Poshur channel for vessels to move freely MPA is yet to procure a dredger. It still depends on Water Development Board (WDB), other agencies for supply on hire-basis if and when necessary. Allegations say that this practice is unwise as the supply of it depends on availability.  
 MPA sources said that total position will be substantially improved turning it into a bustling port earning maximum revenue if dredgers work on the channel round the clock and remains serviceable.  
 Sources informed that pilots reportedly disagree to guide the incoming vessels from Heron point to Mongla Port and back unless the demand for extra payment is made. Besides the pilferage of fuel of chartered vessels at the port is almost a daily affair. Harassment by customs to traders on some plea or other and unnecessary delay by a section of importers to foreign vessels to clear it, have earned bad reputation for the MPA at home and abroad.  
 Sources in the MPA said that a few officers of the port were found involved in fuel pilferage during investigation by Anti-corruption Bureau recently. A case was recorded at the Mongla thana in this connection.  
 Similar case was detected at the port in 1990. The then government had formed a judicial enquiry committee in 1992 when a good number of officers



**SHERPUR:** Catching fish by nets of this type, locally known 'khara', is a common scene in rural areas of the district throughout the year. This recent picture was taken from 'Mrigu river' adjoining sadar headquarter.

**Police vigilance allegedly absent**  
**Passengers travelling in night coaches are frequently robbed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 During enquiry, it has been found that almost all such occurrences go unrecorded in police stations for reasons best known to affected passengers.  
 According to police source, over 200 transports including night coaches and loaded trucks on these routes travel towards Dhaka during night and more than one hundred loaded trucks come from Benapole Port. During survey, conducted unofficially, it has been found that the dacoits prefer the passengers coach than attacking of a loaded truck. The reason is that passengers who travel in night coaches are mostly businessmen and carry cash money for the purpose of marketing.  
 It was learnt from police sources that an order from higher authority was issued on Police Super at district level to take step against the situation much earlier. Accordingly highway police patrol have been assigned but the result was still far below expectation.  
 According to regular passengers the situation is deteriorating throwing open challenge to administration by the criminals.  
 When contacted some coach owners informed this correspondent in view of current increase in highway robbery, they have changed route to avoid potential attack in night coach.  
 According to latest information Tutulata, Barobazar, Rohernathpur Kiabazar on Jessore-Jhenaidah road, Arpara, Simakhali Khajura, Hashimpur on Jessore Magura road, Checherbeel, Bittakpara, Valki on Kushtia-Jhenaidah and Dashedile Dakbanglow, Sorogonj on Chuadanga-Jhenaidah road one well known routes preferred by the dacoits.  
 It is also reported that in order to identify the dacoits, who tend to travel in the night coach in disguise, coach owners have introduced the system of taking video of all passengers before departure from Jessore and back from Dhaka.  
 It may be mentioned here that recently several dacoity committed in the intercity night coach and a supervisor was killed in the attack.  
 It is high time for the law enforcers to look into the matter on priority basis and take appropriate measures to curb such crime.

**Villagers panic as four more fall sick after drinking contaminated water**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**KHULNA.** Sept 27: Four more persons are reported to have fallen ill after drinking water containing arsenic at Hosla village under Fakirhat of Bagerhat district.  
 The afflicted persons are Ismail Morol, 35, Dr Insan Morol, 45, and his wife Suifa, 28, and Shafruddin, 32. The symptoms of arsenic-related diseases like scabies and sore have seriously affected them all, said one of the members of the Bahirdia union parishad under Fakirhat thana.  
 According to DPHE source, four tubewells in the Fakirhat area have been sealed off after reports that they were gushing out arsenic-tainted water in excessive proportion. More tubewells are under study for necessary action, the DPHE source confirmed.  
 But there has been no official arrangement for constantly monitoring the situation to save human lives from arsenic-polluted water in Fakirhat and other areas of Bagerhat district. As a result, panic has spread among the people in the affected areas where many of them have stopped drinking tubewell water and instead drinking boiling water from nearby ponds.  
 On the other hand, presence of arsenic element has also been detected in ten tubewells of Sathkira town and two tubewells at Patkeghata of the same district, DPHE sources confirmed.  
 According to Sathkira DPHE source, samples of water of these and also some other tubewells have been sent for test in laboratory at Calcutta.  
 An expert of Khulna DPHE laboratory said, when contacted, that there is nothing to be worried about in the Sathkira situation as presence of arsenic in the sub-surface tubewell waters is within the permissible limit.

**40 more hurt in Sirajganj AL factions' clash**

**SIRAJGANJ.** Sept 27: Forty more persons were injured in fresh clashes between two groups of ruling party supporters bidding for control over a riverside ghat on the Jamuna at Ranugram Wednesday, reports UNB.  
 Witnesses said the inter-tribal clash between Kalu and Koban groups erupted at 10 in the morning and continued till 2 pm.  
 Of the injured, five were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital, three to Community Hospital and two others to Poly Clinic.

**Abnormal fall in water level**  
**Ferry services in 2 routes likely to be suspended**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JAMALPUR.** Sept 27: Railway ferry services on the two routes of the Jamuna may be halted due to abnormal fall in water levels and massive siltation in the river bed, official sources said.  
 BIWTA sources said that ferries and launches are now moving at risk near Bahadurabad ghat and Jagannathganj ghat as the depth of water is only 12 to 15 feet.  
 The minimum depth required for smooth moving of ferries is 10 to 12 feet, official said.  
 The railway ferry services of the Jagannathganj to Sirajganj ghat and Bahadurabad ghat to Teestamukh ghat may be suspended any movement.  
 Meanwhile, small launches and container boats cannot ply with their full loading capacity due to less water in the river Jamuna. The launch communication between Bahadurabad ghat to Shanandabari, Bahadurabad ghat to Raiman and Bahadurabad ghat to Kurigram has already been suspended due to heavy siltation on these routes.  
 The channels are gradually becoming narrower and silted up causing disruption in ferry services.  
 It was reported that in Bahadurabad ghat to Teestamukh ghat river route two ferries cannot pass through these channels at a time.

**Settlement of khas land**  
**Agitation develops among tribals, non-tribals**

**From CHT Correspondent**  
**RAIKHALI (Rangamati).** Sept 27: Agitation has developed among the tribals and non-tribals of Raikhal mauza in Kaptai thana of the district following the settlement of khas upland allegedly ignoring the existing norms and rules of settlement.  
 Speakers in a meeting held recently at Raikhal union parishad office, chaired by parishad chairman Mong Pire Marna alleged that the rights of the local people have been violated by giving settlement of upland ignoring the consent and recommendations of the chairman of Local Government Council and the concerned headmen of mauzas.  
 The meeting urged the authority to arrange early cancellation of the settlement of 3,000 acres made in favour of Multipurpose Farming Limited in a bid to stop eviction of hundreds of hapless tribal and non-tribal families of the locality.  
 The meeting warned to launch an all-out movement protesting the alleged illegal settlement of upland which will refuge hundreds of tribals and non-tribals deserting from their homes in Raikhal and other mauzas in Kaptai and Razaathali thanas in the district.  
 Meanwhile, the chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council Rabindra Lal Chakma in his letter number 1230/96 on July 13 last categorically requested the Ministry of Land to cancel the settlement given earlier.

**Minor girl allegedly raped**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**SATKHIRA.** Sept 27: Violation of a minor girl has been reported from Tentulia village in Kaligonj thana on September 15.  
 According to police sources, Monowara Khatun, 7, daughter of Ansar Ali of village Tentulia under Kaligonj thana went to buy sugar from a nearby grocery shop on September 15. At one stage shop owner Moslem Uddin, 20, forcibly took her behind the shop and allegedly raped her. Later villagers rescued her in a pool of blood and admitted her with Satkhira hospital.

**News from Jhenidah**

**BKB to disburse Tk 25.5 cr**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has taken a target to disburse Taka 25.5 crore for rabi crop cultivation in 10 southern districts this current fiscal, according to sources.  
 Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) sources said they will disburse about Taka seven crore for boro cultivation, about Taka 22 lakh for wheat cultivation, over Taka 8.5 crore for potato cultivation, Taka 8.79 crore for sugarcane cultivation, about Taka 41 lakh for vegetable cultivation and Taka 52 lakh will be disbursed for the development and crop cultivation.  
 BKB sources said, the money will be disbursed among the farmers of Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts.  
 It was learnt from the sources that the loan disbursement programme will start soon which will continue till January next year.

**Low market price of jute affects growers in Jhenidah**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: The price of newly harvested jute has fallen in the markets of six thanas of the district for want of government and private procurement, according to market sources.  
 In different markets of the district 'shyamla' variety of Tossa jute is being sold between Taka 330 and 350 per maund while the 'Lal' (red) variety between Taka 360 and 400 which is less than the production cost, said Abdul Momin, a jute grower of village Saikupa.  
 Momin said, at least Taka 425 is required to produce one maund of jute. But they are deprived of fair price in the market.  
 Abdul Motleb Biswas, another jute grower at village Kabirpur said that he cultivated jute in his 20 decimals of land. But he will not cultivate the same next season as he could not get fair price. He alleged that taking advantages of the situation the middlemen, locally known as 'pharia', are purchasing jute at throw-away price.  
 Some of the farmers said that the jute purchasing centres at Saikupa thana headquarter and Langabandh bazar were withdrawn a few years back. As a result they have been facing troubles and compelled to sell the product at a lower rate to the middlemen, they added.  
 District Agriculture Extension Department authorities informed that about 11,000 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation this season and the yield was satisfactory. But the farmers of the district and adjoining areas are deprived of fair price of jute.

**One allegedly murdered**

**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: A man was hacked to death at his brother-in-laws house at Nohati in sadar thana when he went there to arbitrate a marriage dispute on Wednesday, reports UNB.  
 Police said Sabbul Mollik, 29, of Bishomkhali village in the same thana died on the spot following the attack by his brother-in-law Kofluiddin and his nephews who were against the marriage of Jamir.  
 Kofluiddin's son Jamir married a woman few days back and was residing at his neighbour's house as his marriage was not accepted by his family members. Mollik took an attempt to resolve the dispute.  
 Another message from Satkhira added: A man was allegedly stabbed to death by his brother in a family feud at Debhata thana in the district on Tuesday.

**Abducted fish sellers yet to be rescued**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: Police could not rescue two abducted fish sellers even after holidays of abduction, according to sources.  
 Police said, Abdul Jalil, 40, and Mijan, 30, two fish sellers of village Arappur in the town were abducted by some unknown armed men from Bhatat bazar at Saikupa thana on September 18 last at about 7 pm when they were returning home with sale proceeds.  
 When contacted police said, they have been trying to rescue the abducted fish sellers.

**Cassel bridge to be constructed**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: Construction work of long cherted Cassel bridge over river Nabaganga is likely to be started soon, according to Chairman, Jhenidah pourasabha.  
 When contacted Anisur Rahman Khoka, Chairman Jhenidah pourasabha said that they will implement the project of an estimated cost of Taka 56 lakh with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB).  
 The construction work of the bridge is expected to be completed by the end of current fiscal, the poura chairman said.  
 It may be noted here that the existing steel made 'Cassel bridge' which was constructed during British reign became unfit for traffic movement a few years back.  
 Meanwhile, five of the abducted died while one is on bail. The other accused never appeared in court.

**Injured Shibir activist dies**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: Aminul Rahman, 26, an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, died on his way to a hospital in Dhaka, police informed.  
 Aminul Rahman, who was severely injured, died in his way to a hospital in Dhaka, at around 9 pm yesterday, police said.  
 Aminul Rahman and over 100 others were injured during a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir that erupted at about 11 am and continued till 2 pm yesterday, police said.

**Villager chopped to death**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: A villager was allegedly chopped to death by his wife and her lover at village Baghadanga in Mohespur thana of the district in the night of September 20 last, according to police sources.  
 Police said, Fatema Khatun, 21, of village Baghadanga was married to Nasiruddin, 23, of village Kanchanpur in same thana a few months back. But Fatema had an illicit relationship with an Indian national Jakir of Haskhali in Nadia district.  
 At about 8 pm on the day of occurrence when Nasiruddin and his wife Fatema were returning to Kanchanpur, Fatema and her lover Jakir suddenly attacked and allegedly chopped him to death.  
 A case was lodged in Mohespur thana in this connection and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.  
 Both the alleged killers managed to flee to India, police suspects.

**Training course on land management concludes**

**From Our Correspondent**  
**JHENIDAH.** Sept 27: Six day long training course on land management concluded at Jhenidah Zilla Parishad auditorium recently.  
 Presided over by Mizanur Rahman Deputy Commissioner Jhenidah as chief guest, the conclusion ceremony was addressed among others by Ferdous Alam, RDC, Jhenidah.  
 48 participants including Tahshildars and Assistant Tahshildars from six thanas attended the training course.

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