

## News snaps

## Boy killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 28: An unidentified boy was killed and two others injured in a head on collision between a bus and truck near Mahmudpur in Salkupa thana of the district on July 22 morning according to eye-witnesses and police.

Police said, the boy aged about 13 years were killed on the spot when a Jessore bound bus Kushtia Ja-04-0045 met head on collision with a truck from the opposite direction at about 10.30. Two injured persons were rushed to Salkupa Thana Health Complex. A case was filed with Salkupa thana and the body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus while the truck driver managed to flee.

## Ashari Purnima celebrated

MADRIPUR, July 28: Ashari Purnima, religious festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated in the district recently with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

The main mass prayer was held at Rajbari bazar Buddhist temple. A discussion on the life of Lord Buddha was also held on the occasion. The speakers at the discussion called on the members of the Buddhist community to follow the teachings of Lord Buddha.

## Extension of Jhenidah Tele Exchange

JHENIDAH, July 28: Telephone exchange capacity of Jhenidah will be extended from its existing 800 lines to 1100 lines soon, reports BSS.

Local telephone authority said, with the extention of the exchange's capacity, 300 new customers will be benefitted who were awaiting long for telephone lines. The new connections will be given soon. It is learnt that hundreds of applications were lying pending with the telephone department. With the extention of new 300 lines the demands of the applicants will be met to some extent.

## 2 get 3 yrs' jail term for hurting 5

SIRAJGANJ, July 28: A court here on Sunday sentenced two people to three years' simple imprisonment each for injuring five people over a land dispute in 1993, reports UNB.

After examining the records and witnesses, 1st class Magistrate Aminul Islam found Abdul Karim and Abdur Rahim guilty. He, however, acquitted 15 other charge-sheeted accused. According to the prosecution, accused Abdul Karim and Abdur Rahim had attacked and injured Abdul Awal, Abdus Samad, Abdul Momin and two others at Adachaki village in Belkuchi thana on January 6, 1993. Later, Abdul Awal lodged a case with Belkuchi thana. After investigation police submitted chargesheet against 17 people.

## Nat'l convention of Apexians held

COMILLA, July 28: Two-day long 22nd National Convention of Apex Bangladesh concluded recently at Comilla Town Hall, reports BSS.

State Minister for Health and Family Planning Dr M Amanullah inaugurated the convention. Apexian Advocate Nazmus Sadat presided over the session. Comilla Pousavas Chairman Kamaluddin Chowdhury, National President of Apex Bangladesh Sheikh Parbhes Uddin, Apexian T K Tarun Barai, and Apexian Chowdhury Chowdhury Abdur Rouf spoke in the meeting.

## Solution of CHT problem in final phase

BANDARBAN, July 28: Parliamentary affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, Suranjit Sengupta on Saturday said that the solution of problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts is now in final phase as the government has taken a positive approach, reports BSS.

Speaking on law and order situation of the Bandarban Hill Districts here, Sengupta said the present government wants to get a permanent solution said the present government wants to get a permanent solution to the problems. Efforts are being made for an honourable and realistic solution of the Hill Tracts problems.

## Indian goods seized

COMILLA, July 28: A petroil team of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a drive on July 23-24 seized contraband Indian goods worth about Taka three lakh from the border areas of the district, reports BSS.

A BDR source said, the contraband goods included saree and phenidyl syrup. Cases were filed in this connection with Kotwali thana.

## Fish fry released in Barobeeba beel

RANGPUR, July 28: State Minister for Fisheries and live-stock Shatish Chandra Roy called upon the NGOs to come forward side by side with the government to implement different activities undertaken for alleviating poverty and creating self-employment opportunities, reports UNB.

The state minister made the call while releasing fish fry in 'Barobeeba' beel at Piroganj here recently. The present government is earnestly trying to develop the socio-economic condition of the people through poverty alleviation and self-employment opportunities, he said. He said income of the rural people could be increased and protein deficiency reduced by fish culture for which the government has undertaken effective steps.

## Influenza spreading in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 28: Influenza is spreading fast in different areas of the district, especially in the villages, medical report said.

According to the physcians, children women and working people including farmers in the rural areas under four thanas of the district are common victim of influenza. Cough, high fever and headache are the main symptoms of the disease, local doctors said.

## 2 children drown

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 28: Two infants drowned in a pond here recently.

According to family sources, Ridaya 5, son of Jahid Kazi and Tangina, 4, daughter of Dulal Kazi of village Jungardi under Nagarkanda thana suddenly fell into the pond while playing nearby. After a few hours, their bodies were found floating in the pond.

## Rivals' clash leaves 2 dead

MEHERPUR, July 28: Two persons were killed and five others injured in a clash between two rival groups on July 20 at village Raipur under Meherpur sadar thana, reports BSS.

Police said Sharifuddin, 28, and Abdul Ganji, 26, were done to death by their rivals with sharp weapons over a land dispute. Five others were injured in the incident. Police sent the bodies for autopsy. Cases were filed in this connection. None has been arrested so far.

## 2 outlawed partymen arrested

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 28: Police arrested two persons from village Dhupol of Lalpur thana recently.

The arrested persons are identified as: Ashraful Alam Bablu, son of one Mohammad Ali Sardar of village Bangalpara under Bharamara thana of Kushtia district and Mahbub Ali, son of late Jahid Uddin of village Bohircharbarag under the same thana. They are allegedly members of Sarbahara Party, police said. A case was filed in this connection with Lalpur Police Station (PS).

## Man dies falling from minibus

BOGRA, July 28: An unidentified man died as he fell from the top of a speeding minibus at Saduria under Shibganj thana of Bogra district last week, reports BSS.

Local people said, the victim fell from the top of a Bogra-bound minibus and sustained fatal injuries. He was admitted to Shibganj Thana Health Complex where he succumbed to his injuries. A case of unnatural death was filed in this connection.

## Bagruna Hospital ailing

BARGUNA, July 28: Bagruna 50-bed general hospital has failed to ensure minimum medicare facilities to some six lakh people of the district, reports UNB.

The hospital was modernised some years back with the aim to ensure improved medicare for the people. But no such facilities are visible although a large amount of money have been spent for the purpose. The hospital is plagued with various problems including shortage of medicine, inadequate number of beds, lack of lady doctor and improved diet.

## 1774 crimes in Comilla in 6 months

COMILLA, July 28: A total of 1774 crimes were committed in the district during the last six months, which is 411 more than the corresponding period of the previous year, reports UNB.

District police sources also said during the January-June period 1488 people were arrested on various charges. According to police, 165 thefts, 53 smuggling, 45 women repressions, 44 riots, 43 murders, 32 drug related crimes, 27 arms act violations, 23 kidnappings, 22 hijackings, 21 dacoities and 999 other crimes were committed during the period.



MANIKGANJ: River erosion victims of village Ramkrishnapur under Harirampur thana in the district have taken shelter on boat.

— Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

## Reopening of IU demanded

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 28: Different organisations and political parties have demanded immediate reopening of Islamic University (IU) in the interest of 6000 students studying there.

Advocate Ibrahim Hossain and Abdur Rouf, Convenor and Joint Convenor of Zilla Awami League respectively expressed their solidarity with the decision of the Education Minister in this respect. A big public meeting organised by Left Gomtantric Front of Islamic University branch held at Shaikhpara Bazar on Saturday also demanded reopening of the university.

The meeting was addressed by Nur Ahmed Bakul, central leader of Bangladesh Workers Party as the chief guest.

The Islamic University branch of Jatiyatabdab Chhatra Dal (JCD) also held a meeting at Islamic University gate recently with Nazul Bari in chair.

Aliaz Shorabuddin, former MP spoke as the chief guest. Krishak Sangram Samity under the auspices of Ujangram Union Committee held a public meeting with Alimuddin in chair. The meeting also demanded reopening of the university immediately.

Efforts on to improve people's lot

KACHUA (Chandpur), July 28: State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir called upon the people to cooperate with the present government for implementing its people oriented activities, reports UNB.

He was addressing a public meeting at Burgi High School in Kachua thana on Friday.

The present government has undertaken different uplift projects with a view to improving people's lot — said the state minister adding that their active cooperation is essential for implementing these development activities.

Referring to the government's sincerity in development of rural infrastructure he said advanced communication system and supply of power are the essential preconditions for the socio-economic development of the rural people.

Presided over by local UP chairman M Habibullah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Pro Vice Chancellor of the National University Dr Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir and Awami League district unit President M Shafiqullah.

## Scarcity of lower unit phone-cards

NATORE, July 28: The discontinuation of the sale of phone-cards of 25, 50 and 100 units by the Telephone Shilpa Sangathan (TSS) and T&T Board is causing inconveniences to the telephone users in the 16 northern districts.

During the last few months, phone cards of 25, 50 and 100 units costing Tk 50, 100 and 200 respectively have become scarce in almost all the post offices in districts even in Rajshahi divisional post office.

Only 200 units of Tk 400 are available. There is no satisfactory explanation regarding non-availability of phone-cards of lower units.

Local people alleged that a section of T&T employees in connivance with some bureaucrats at the ministry are responsible for the scarcity of the phone-cards.

Gradually the card-phone system would be made redundant so that people using phone-cards mainly for making overseas calls can seek the assistance of the T&T Boards staff who would get opportunity to make money — an official of Natore Post Office, on condition of anonymity, told UNB.

Card-phone system had started earning good profit for the Board and TSS since its introduction in 1992.

Meanwhile, it is also found that lower unit cards are being sold at 15 to 25 per cent higher rate in some betel leaf shops in front of Rajshahi POC.

## 16,000 flood-hit families will be brought under VGF programme

BANDARBAN, July 28: The Bandarban district administration plans to bring some 16,000 worst affected families of seven thanas including the paurashava of the district under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme as part of its post-relief operation, reports BSS.

Distressed family will be provided with 32 kgs of rice for two months under special VGF programme, official sources said.

District administration has so far distributed Taka 4 lakh 75 thousand in cash, 90 tonnes

of rice, 5250 pieces of sarees, 2300 pieces of lungis, 1000 pieces of babywear, 1,000 pieces of old clothes, 4 metric tons of chira, 460 tins of biscuits, 2 metric tons of molasses and 8000 pieces of bread for the flood affected people.

Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban Atiqul Islam Chowdhury said so far 16 people have died and 137 people were injured in the district due to flood. He said, crops and property worth Taka 24 crore and 16 lakh 26 thousand 6 hundred were damaged by the flood. A total of 79,563 people belong-

ing to 17,595 families were affected by the flood.

He said the flood affected 936 square kilometers of land, 121.65 kilometers of roads completely and 299.75 kilometers partially damaged, crops of 4699 acres of land were completely and 8760 acres partially damaged, 25 educational institutions were completely and 109 partially damaged, 54 bridges, 10 embankments and 4889 of houses were completely damaged, 13,882 houses were partially damaged in last week's flash flood in which 892 cattlehead died.

Both the bridges are the long felt demand of Gaibandha people. The department allocated a fund of Taka eight crore 66 lakh for its implementation. Out of the amount Taka three crore 50 lakh will be spent for the construction of 149 metres bridge over the river Karotoa and Katachali with a view to easing the road communication between Gaibandha and Gobindaganj and Palashbari to Ghoraghat.

The government earned a huge amount of foreign currencies by exporting hilsa fish to India, USA, UK and some Arab countries previously. Over 5,850 metric tons of hilsa fishes

worth about Taka 50 crore were exported to different countries from Bangladesh during the last fiscal year. The government is being deprived of a huge amount of foreign currencies due to smuggling of a good quantity of hilsa through waterways either by high speed trawlers or marine vessels.

BARISAL, July 28: Hilsa fish has become scarce now due to various reasons. The fish has also turned into a costly one. The total production of hilsa fish is nearly 2.5 lakh metric tons. The total fish production is over 12 lakh metric tons in the country.

One fourth of the total fish production is hilsa. Nearly 90 thousand metric tons of hilsa are collected from different inland rivers. The rest comes from the Bay of Bengal and its adjoining coastal areas, according to official record.

The production of hilsa is decreasing gradually. The main reason is non-stop fishing of small-size hilsa fish called jatka. The trend could not be controlled till now.

Informed sources said, to check this unhealthy tendency more strict laws should be enforced as early as possible. The other major reason is shortage of ice at coastal areas. The production of ice has fallen sharply in 25 ice factories due to frequent loadshedding. At least 4 to 6 hours' non-stop power supply is required for normal production of ice.

Acute scarcity of ice is still prevailing at Alipur, Mahipur, Kuakata in Pataukhali, Patharghat of Barguna, Charfason and Daulatkhan of Bholi where 20,000 fisherman are living only by fishing.

There are some other reasons for decline in production of hilsa. According to Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), change of environment, decrease in river navigability, emergence of new shoals, changing of river routes are also the causes of fall in hilsa production. The FRI's survey report also revealed, unscrupulous fishermen are fishing nearly 50 crore jatka annually. They also fish hilsa during its breeding period from January to March and July to October. This period is restricted for fishing hilsa. But many fishermen pay no heed to the government order. The government should compel the fishermen to follow order strictly. A big size hilsa fish carries nearly 30 lakh eggs during the breeding season. During the fishing sea-

## Separate incidents kill 3

JESSORE, July 28: Three people were killed and 10 others wounded, two seriously, in separate incidents at different places in the district in the last two days, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Purna Chandra Halder, 25, of Ramchandrapur village in Moheshpur thana was strangled to death by some unidentified people at Karabara ground at about 9.45pm on Friday. He was returning home.

Police recovered the body from the ground on Saturday morning and said that past enmity might be the reason behind the killing.

Also on Friday, Amjad Hosain, 30, of village Sazidai in Kotwali thana was stabbed seriously by some miscreants while he was returning home from the town at about 11pm.

In a road mishap at Nimgali in Chaugachch thana at about 7.30am on Saturday, a bus helper Tikka Khan died on the spot and 10 other people wounded.

Meanwhile, the flood affected people alleged that no officials have yet visited the affected areas for reasons not known to them.

## River erosion victims in distress

PABNA, July 28: About 50,000 people in Bera thana of the district, who have been rendered homeless by river erosion, are passing their days in distress on the Flood Protection Embankment, reports UNB.

Official sources said in the last few months some 15 villages of seven unions in the district were engulfed by the river while another 18 villages were affected partially.

Haturia, Nakalia, New Varenga and Old Varenga are the worst affected unions of the thana.

A Union Parishad (UP) chairman told UNB that the homeless people are passing their days in misery for want of adequate relief materials. Only three tons of rice and cash amount of Tk 10,000 were so far sanctioned for the affected people which was too small to meet the requirement.

Meanwhile, the flood affected people alleged that no officials have yet visited the affected areas for reasons not known to them.

Presided over by district Awamia League Vice President, the meeting was addressed among others, by Dewan Forid Gazi, Syed Rofiqul Hoque MP and