Newssnaps

Relief distributed among flood victims

ISHURDI, Sept 4: Shamsur Rahman Sharif MP distributed relief materials among the flood affected people in 20 villages of four unions: Paksey, Shahapur, Shara and Laximkunda under Ishurdi thana on August 29, reports BSS.

He visited different flood shelters and distributed relief materials including rice, sarees and lungis and money. According to official sources, Ishurdi thana administration has also distributed till August 30. Taka 80,000 in cash, 60 tonnes of rice, 50 tons of biscuit, 500 pieces, of sarees and 400 pieces of lungis among the flood stricken people of the thana.

Training course on rat killing

JAMALPUR, Sept 4: A daylong training course on rat killing and control programme was held on Monday at the conference room of district agriculture extension office here, according to official source, reports BSS.

The course was participated by thana agriculture officers assistant agricultural extension officers, junior agricultural extension officers and plant protection inspectors of Jamalpur district. The course was inaugurated by Md Golam Mustafa, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension, Jamalpur, Md Tofazzal Hussain Miah, plant protection specialist, Md Abdur Rashid Mia, district training officer Md Saidur Rahman, horticulture specialists and Md Abdullah, BS acted as trainers.

Irregularities in publication of tender

BANDARBAN, Sept 4: Irregularities in the publication of tender notices are likely to cause excess expenditure of Tk 13 lakh on six projects of the PWD here, senior enlisted contractors alleged, reports UNB.

The contractors said tender notices for six projects esti-mated to cost Tk 1,24,80,000 during the fiscal 1997-98, were sent for publication in the well-circulated national newspapers. But the tenders were published in some unknown newspapers which are not subscribed by all the contractors. Genuine contractors, therefore, remained ignorant of the PWD projects. Taking advantage of the situation, the manipulating contractors responded to the tender by quoting 11 per cent higher rate against four projects and eight per cent higher rate against two other projects. PWD officials said publication of tender notices was the responsibility of the Department of Film and Publications under the Ministry of Information and hence they were not involved in any irregularities.

Father, son jailed for 4 years

MAGURA, Sept 4: A man and his son were sentenced to four years imprisonment each on charges of demanding dowry, court sources here said, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, in brief, Tariqul Islam, son of Jalil Mollah married Shahnaz Parvin, daughter of Ishaq Sikder of Collegepara in Sadar thana seven years back. But Tariqul forced his wife to leave his house on July 27, 1996 when she expressed her inability to bring the dowry of Tk one lakh from her parents. Shahnaz finding no other way out filed a case with the first class magistrate court in this connection. Magistrate Abdul Halim Mollah after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment to Tariqui and his father Jalil Mollah last week.

Tree fair begins

KUSHTIA, Sept 4: A weeklong tree fair sponsored by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the forest department has begun at Begum Hamida Siddiq School here on Saturday, reports BSS.

Prof Rafiqui Islam, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources inaugurated the fair as the chief guest. QI Siddique, Chief Engineer of LGED and Prof Mohamamd Abdus Salam of the Physics Department of Islamic University attended the function as special guests. Government and private nurseries have been participating in the fair. Saplings of various trees are being sold to the members of the public at a nominal price.

Pry school headmaster suspended

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 4: A primary school headmaster in Austagram thana here has been suspended for not hoisting national flag at half mast on the National Mourning Day, reports

Official sources said Muhammad Muniruddin, Headmaster of Karamnagar Government Primary School has been put under suspension as he failed to respect the Mourning Day on August 15, the day in which the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman was assassinated. After investigation. District Primary Education Officer Muhammad Riazuddin Sarker gave the suspension order recently.

Tk 1.09 uplift work progressing

JESSORE, Sept 4: Jessore Zila Parishad has been implementing 22 projects at a cost of Taka 1.09 crore in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to the zila parishad sources the projects include construction of a union parishad building and repair of eight dakbangalows in eight thanas of the district. Besides, several roads including Sagardarochingra Road and Madhu Sarak named after the greatest epic poet Madhu Shudan Datta are being developed under the projects.

Girl succumbs to acid burn injuries

NATORE, Sept 4: A young girl succumbed to her acid burn injuries after 24 hours of fighting for life here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to the villagers, Sajeda Khatun, 25, an NGO worker and daughter of Sohrab Hossain of Kaidmia village in Barigram thana was thrown acid after violating her one after another by some miscreants at dead of night on Tuesday. The villagers rushed her to Baraigram thana health complex from where she was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her massive acid born injuries. One alleged culprit, Yousuf Ali, son of Bahadur Pramanik was arrested in this connection. A case was filed with the police.

Contraband goods seized

SATKHIRA, Sept 4: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized contraband goods worth Taka 2,09,65,000 during the last eight months from border areas of the district, reports BSS.

An official source said, 995 cases were filed against the alleged smugglers and 135 persons arrested during the period on charges of smuggling during the period. The contraband goods included Indian sari, spare parts, cosmetics, phensydil, alcohol and copper.

Alleged terrorist arrested

GAZIRPUR, Sept 4: Police on Wednesday arrested one Taslim Uddin, 25, and recovered an illegal revolver from his possession at village Laxmipura in Gazipur poursabha, reports BSS.

Police said Taslim Uddin of village Naozor in Sadar thana is an alleged terrorist. A case was filed with Gazipur sadar thana in this connection.

Opposition parties asked to join relief drive COMILLA, Sept 4: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Abdul Matin Khasru has called upon the opposition political parties to join the relief operation among the floodaffected people, reports BSS.

"Natural disaster affects the people irrespective of cast, class and opinion," he said while distributing relief materials among the flood victims of Daudkandi, Devidwar and Homna thana in the district. Prof Ali Ashraf, MP, General Secretary of Comilla (north). Jahangir Alam Sarkar and former deputy minister Fakhrul Islam Munshi accompanied the minister.

'Aman' seed-beds damaged

CHANDPUR, Sept 4: About forty thousand hectares of seedbeds of 'Aman' paddy have been totally damaged in Chandpur

district due to prolonged flood this year, reports BSS. According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources, cultivation of transplanted 'Aman' on two lakh hectares in the district will be hampered due to flood. It is apprehended that the target of 'Aman' cultivation may not be achieved this year. A total of 2 lakh 50 thousand hectares were to be brought under transplanted 'Aman' cultivation this year in seven thanas of the district of which one lakh twenty thousand hectares were selected for hybrid varieties and one lakh thirty thousand hectares for local varieties of transplanted 'Aman' paddy.

Influentials occupy Rly land

NAOGAON, Sept 4: A vast tract of khas and railway land around Shantahar railway junction here have been grabbed by

a section of influential people, reports UNB.

The government is being deprived of huge amount of revenue as well as the land due to the unauthorised holding of possession by them. Local people alleged that the lands were occupied by a section of people with the help of corrupt railway officials and employees. They said thousands of non-Bengalee families, known as Biharis, had lived in Shantahar. They left the area during the Liberation War.



JHENIDAH: Students of Nabadoy Girls' High School in Sailakupa thana going to school through a submerged road. This photo was taken on Monday.

- Star photo by Delwar Kabir



PABNA: A flood affected area in Pabna sadar thana. - Star photo by Ranesh Maitra

Flash flood in Sharsha thana of Jessore dist

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Sept 4: A Vast tract of land in Sharsha thana has been inundated following onrush of water triggered by flash flood

The flood water has been entering into Bangladesh from India through Bahadurpur Mini Farakka gate causing extensive damage to standing crops and many dwelling houses recently. According to latest reports,

larger portions of Bahadurpur, Putkhali, Benapole, Kaiba, Goga, Nizampur, Laksmanpur and Baganchara unions out of 11 unions have been affected in this flood.

when contacted, local MP Tabibor Rahman told The Daily Star, nine unions completely and rest two unions have gone under water partially.

Giving full account of losses so for suffered in the flood, he said that a total of 125 villages have been submerged and 30,000 people have been worsthit. He also told that standing crops on over 5500 acres of land worth several crores of taka. have been damaged. Besides, a large number of academic in-

stitutions, mosques and places of warship have been affected. The situation is grim and beyond description, he

He told that he has already taken up the matter with the government to rush relief and assistance both in cash and kind in massive quantity.

Expressing apprehension.he also told that delay by the government to send adequate relief to the distressed to combat the situation effectively will intensify the miseries of the affected people. When contacted, Deputy

Commissioner(DC), Jessore, M Abdul Malek Mia, told The Daily star, the situation is not as grave as a section of people make it sound. He told that so far only five unions including Bahadur Pur, Putkhali and Kaiba have been badly affected and and a total of 1,900 hectares of land have been inundated.

With a view to meeting emergency in the flood-hit areas, he has already placed 100 metric tons of wheat and cash Taka 2000 with the local Thana Nirbahi Officer(TNO).

When asked if he visited the flood -hit area, the DC replied in the negative. He, however, told he will be visiting the area in a day or two to see things for

Another source told that a number of border villages including Salkona, Shibobash, Dihi and Fulshara, have been cut off from the mainland of the Dihi union, As such all link roads connecting these areas with union office at Paksey bazaar have been washed away.

UNB reports : Diarrhoea that broke out in an alarming proportion in flood affected Gaibandha district claimed two more lives and affected 700 others on Wednesday.

According to health officials, so far, a number of people have died and 7,700 others affected by the water-borne diseases in seven thanas of the district.

BSS reports from Gazipur Bangabandhu Parishad continued its relief distribution in different areas of Tongi Pourasabha on Wednesday.

Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek, accompanied by Ahsanullah

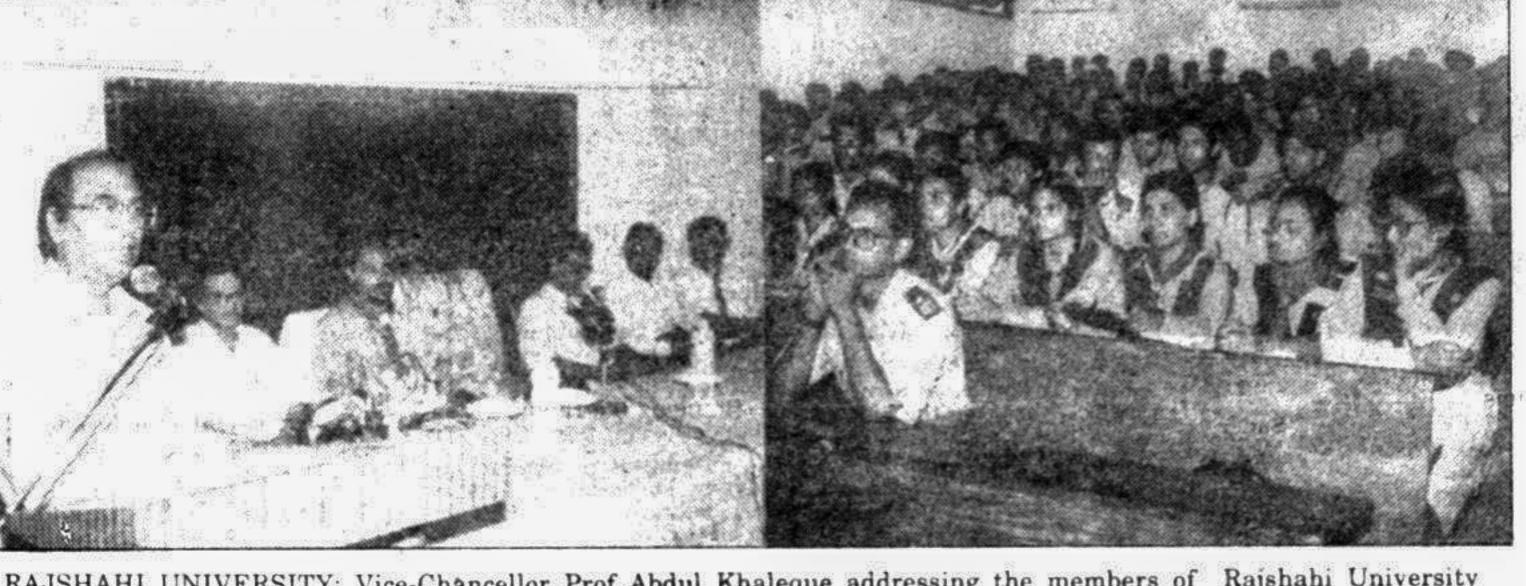
Master, MP and Gazipur Pourashabha chairman A K M Mazammel Huq distributed dry food, rice and cash money among the flood victims of Arispur, Pagar and Tongi bazar.

Tongi Pourasabha chairman Azmatullah Khan, president of Tongi thana Awami League Abdul Mannan Pathan and ward commissioner Azhar Ali were, among others, present on the occasion

Another report from Jamalpur says : Relief operations have been continuing in the flood-hit areas of Jamalpur dis-

According to district relief office sources, district administration distributed, till August 31. Gratuitous relief of Taka 12 lakh among the flood-affected people. Besides, 900 tonnes of rice, 5042 pieces of sarees, 1,052 pieces of lungis. 200 tins of biscuits, 2000 pieces of old clothes and 20 rolls of polythene sheets were also distributed among the flood-distressed.

Out of 68 unions 28 unions are fully and 40 unions partially affected by flood, relief office sources added.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque addressing the members of Rajshahi University Rover Scout at the "Rovering Extension Workshop '98" organised by RU Rover Scout Group and Rajshahi Divisional - Star photo Senior Rover Md Mostofa Kamal.

Dacoity incidents on rise in S-region

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Sept 4: Incidents of highway and riverine dacoity in the southern region have increased alarmingly for the last few years.

Atleast 50 firearms and more than 1,500 rounds of ammunition were looted during the incidents of dacoity in last 10 years.

Police and members of other law enforcing agencies recovered a negligible quantity of the lost fire arms and ammunition

Wealth and cash of several lakhs of taka were looted by dacoits from the passengers on board the vehicles. So far 18 people were killed and nearly

200 others injured during the

Police sources admitted that due to their shortage of speedy transport and lack of manpower and sophisticated weapons they could not continue necessary operations for days together to curb the activities of the dacoit gangs in the southern region.

Sometimes, it seems dacoity is committed for merely arms and cash.

Sources informed, most of these dacoits are from Patuakhali district and Nizam was the ring leader of the gang who was killed on the spot in the police encounter in the Senerbayar area after the recent launch dacoity on August 26 All the dacoits of the gang were

professional inter-district da-

coits, police said. Informed sources said, after arrest of Makim Gazi, a very notorious dacoit of Patuakhali who was jailed for more than one hundred years, his followers were scattered and became almost inactive for months together. Later on some of them took shelter under 'Badar Bahini in the Sundarbans area while others formed at least four gangs and built shelters at different remote shoallands of Patuakhali in early nineties.

These dacoit gangs have many arms and ammunition. It may be recalled, 10,400 rounds of ammunition were stolen away from the Ansar Battalion armory of Khepupara in Patuakhali district in August, 1993. Those could not be recovered. As a result, strength of the gangs was strengthened. Sources also opined, these gangs are involved with the recent two incidents of marine dacoity of this region. These professional gangs of dacoits have huge amount of money in different places so that they can help the gang members and their families in their odd days or when in jail.

Rakhine community in Barguna, Patuakhali facing extinction

BARGUNA, Sept 4: It was a time more than a century ago when there was nothing but a vast tract of forest land along the southern coast where roaring tigers walked with their royal gait by night and birds chirped by day, reports UNB.

Storms and tidal surges with seasonal visitations bestowed mortality and fertility in cyclic turns but put up a formidable challenge to human habitation. But not so to the undaunted

tribe of Arakan in the southwest of Burma, called Rakhine who, driven out of their hearths and homes by Burmese invaders and haunted by Maung pirates set sail on boats across the North-East Bay of Bengal to set up new homes in Barguna and Patuakhali. There they continued to live

peacefully on fishing and weaving until the native Bengalees. spilling across the over-populated mainland started claiming a share of their frugal livelihood.

Today, more than a hundred years later, the Rakhine community in the two districts is facing extinction with their number decimating to almost naught. A census in 1947-48 had put the Rakhine population of the area at 50,000; it is only 5,000 now. In Mouduby of Patuakhali,

shortly after the arrival of the Rakhines, there were 26 localities with 420 families. Now they

have been reduced to four families in five localities. There were 390 families in nine areas in Baliatoli: there are now 11 of them living in one area. At the beginning of the '60s

of this century, a place called Taltali port was wholly people by the Rakhines, save only one Muslim family. There are only two Rakhine families there at present. The Rakhines began coming

here in 1885, beleaguered by clashes and mutinees from the fourth to the last decades of the 14th century. And at the end of the 18th century, Arakan King Hamada lost throne to Burmese King Bodh Panya owing to the conspiracy of his councilors. The marauding Burmese soldiers terrorised the Rakhine population.

About 150 families on 50 boats sailed out of the Arakan coast and landed at Ragabali of Patuakhali and Baliatoli and Amtali of Barguna. Later they spread out to Kuakata and Tiakhali of Patuakhali and their number swelled until 1951 when the unnatural decline in Rakhine population became noticeable.

The Rakhines gradually changed their vocation and land Bengalees.

many of them resorted to farming which brought about a conflict of interest with the main-In most cases, the Rakhines

found themselves at the receiv-

ing end, deprived of the facilities offered by the state and denied of the basic necessities of life. They helplessly watch people from the mainland take over their inherited property forcing them to move from one place to another only for subsistence.

Once an owner of about 37 acres of land, Chathy Ching Mog, of Agathakurpara at Taltali, is now landless, penniless. He went to the highest court to protect his property and secured verdict in his favour but never able to execute the court order. Mog has no access to lands that are legally his. This is not a stray incident, it is just one of too many.

Mong Tahan, General Secretary of the Barguna-Patuakhali Buddist Culture Academy said, "the administration is blind to our misery. We do not get the necessary help. Law is only for the influential people. The community is deprived of jus-

And lack of communication between Barguna and Patuakhali has only added to their woe and sufferings. They have no one to represent them to the central administration. As days go by, meek and modest Rakhine population in Barguna and Patuakhali is vanishing. A large segment of the

Rakhine tribe however, is

thriving on weaving and trading in the Cox's bazar district which at one time of the century had been part of the Kingdom of

SI of police suspended. Habilder, 6 others closed in Naogaon From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 4: One court sub-inspector(SI) of police Aslam Bahar was suspended and one Habilder and six constables of Naogaon district police were closed for their alleged negligence in duty for which one under-trial prisoner managed to flee from their custody on Sunday afternoon. According to police sources

Mamunur Rashid Ripon, 35, an accused of a dacoity case and under-trial prisoner escaped from the police custody when he was taken to the jail gate after attending the court.

Alleged terrorist arrested From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4 : Police arrested an alleged terrorist from a college campus in the night.

A gun and a revolver along with some ammunition were also recovered from his posses-

Property worth Tk 5 lakh looted

From Our Correspondent

PABNA. Sept 4: Armed dacoits looted property worth over Taka five lakh on Monday morning from the house of a brick field owner at Kazipara near the Mental Hospital in Pabna pourasabha area.

Dacoits numbering about 15 to 20 stormed the house of Abdul Jalil Khan at about nine in the morning on the day after creating terror in the entrie village. They set on fire four houses and opened blank shots.

The villagers got frightened and fled away in panic. As a result 15 persons were injured. One of the injureds was admitted to Pabna General Hospital with bullet injuries. He has been identified as Shaheen,25. His condition has been stated to be critical. The dacoits tied the hands

and feet of women and beat up the children. They looted in cash and kind including gold ornaments.

On receiving information, Pabna thana police reached the spot after occurrance of the incident which made people angry. But the situation was under control. Fire Brigade also rushed to the spot and extinguished fire.

Natore DC, SP offices

gheraoed

NATORE, Sept 4: The Dis-trict Auto Rickshaw-Tempo Owners Association gheraoed the offices of Deputy Commis-sioner (DC) and Police Super (SP) on Monday protesting illegal activities of so-called "Argu Bahini" in railway station bazar are, reports UNB.

They also staged a two-hour sit-in in front of the two offices demanding stringent action against unabated extortion, terrorist activities and obstacles on playing motorised vehicles in the area by the group.

President of the Natore Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NCCI) and local MP Adv Ruhul Quddus Dulu expressed their solidarity with the association members.

The leaders of the association said the so-called 'Arzu Bahini' has been forcibly collecting Tk 1,200 per month from them and recently they claimed another Tk 5,000 in addition to the monthly toll.

They said following the refusal of paying the newly demanded illegal toll, the musclemen of the bahini damaged several vehicles and threatened for dire consequences if their demand is not met immediately.

They also said the bahini at present is plying shallow engine driven van which is illegal and unfit for playing on the roads and highways. The association members

and Police Super M Abdul Bari Mia demanding immediate action against the toll collectors. The association called off their siege programme at 12 noon following the assurance of taking necessary actions by the

also handed over a referendum

to ADC (General) Rafigul Islam

BDR on alert along border in Satkhira to foil push-in bid

administration.

SATKHIRA, Sept 4: The BDR 21 Battalion has tightened patrol along the 96-kilometre border from Debhata to Goga

border outpost, reports BSS. The Commanding Officer (CO) of 21 Rifles Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Mahbubul Alam said, "Our jawans are on maximum alert to foil any push-in attempt by the BSF." He was speaking with the local newsmen at his office ternoon.

He said the BDR already has foiled two Indian push-in attempts of 12 Bengali-speaking Indian nationals through the Chanduria and Kalabaria border under Kalaroa thana on August 27 and 28.

BDR selected ten sensitive border outposts at Padmashal Tardoha, Bhomra, Chanduria, Lazmidari, Toluigachi, Kakdanga, Vad Hizoldi and Ghojadanga and are also maintaining tightened constant patrolling here, he added.

RU Press Club executives



From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 1: The annual election of Rajshahi University (RU) Press Club was held on August 25 last. Md Aminul Haque of Banglabazar Patrika, Md Sohidul Islam of The New Nation and Md Abul Kalam Azad of the Daily Khabar were elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The office-bearers of Rajshahi University Press Club are: Senior Vice-President Dheresh Chandra Chakkrabarti (BNS), Junior Vice-President Md Anisuzzaman (Dainik Janakantha), Assistant General Secretary Md Zakir Hossain (Dainik Bangler Bani), Cultural Secretary Md Hashmat Ali (Dainik Sonali Sangbad), Athletic Secretary Md Abdul Momin Shahin (Dainik Janata). Press and Publications Secretary Md Mazedul Islam (Dainik Jhenidah) and Office Secretary Md Shazahan Ali (Dainik Tista).

Md Erfan Ali Biplob of The Daily Al Muzadded. Md Akhtar Mithu of The Daily Manob Jamina and Md Ahshan Habib Zinnah of Daily Chadni Bazar were elected as executive members of the committee. Associate Prof Farukuzza-

man, Administrator of Public Relation office, conducted the election as Election Commissioner. The other election commissioners were Prof A E M Moniruzzaman and Prof Abdur Rahman Shiddique.

7 murderers get 'life term

SHERPUR, Sept 4: Seven people were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in two murder cases here on Mon-

According to the first case, Jabu Bepari was stabbed by Sekam and Jalal with sharp weapons over past enmity on March 18,1993. He died on the

Later a case was filed against Sekam and Jalal, but police charge-sheeted them along with three others after investigation. They were Alal, Jabul, and Afsar Ali.

Sessions Judge Ismail Mia the five people. According to another case, Nefazuddin of Tangarpara vil-

died on the following day. Shyamnarayan Paal awarded the punishment against Akhter and Hasina, second wife of Ne-

khas water bodies

NATORE, Sept 4: A joint decision of the Land and the in the district, reports UNB.

out to registered youth or women cooperative organisations. But no such organisation took part in the tender floated four times this year.

were either not cooperative or registered. Three registered youth cooperative organisations in the district showed no interest in taking lease of the water bodies.

tion of fish. Officials of the Fisheries Directorate said. 35 to 40 metric tons of various types of fish

'Myanmar nationals enlisted in voter

BANDARBAN, Sept 4: A large number of Myanmar nationals have allegedly enlisted their names in the voter list

here, reports UNB. The local leaders of Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Muktijoddha Sangsad, in a joint statement recently said about 500 male and female of the neighbouring country Myanmar who intruded into Bangladesh during 1991-92 and 1997-98 period, have already enlisted their names in the

voter list. The statement also said that the intruders have been living freely in different areas in Naikhangchhari thana of the district.

After repeated allegations made by the local people and the political leaders, security measures have been increased in different border areas of the country but Bangladesh-Myanmar border is still lying unguarded causing unabated intrusion of Myanmar nationals.

It is also alleged that law and order situation in the hill region has been deteriorated with the influx of the Myanmar nationals.

The foreigners in connivance with a section of local people are committing anti-social activities creating panic in the area, it is learnt. The local leaders urged the

authorities concerned to look into the matter and take immediate steps in this regard. 2 bogies of train

derail in Ctg CHITTAGONG, Sept 4: Two bogies of a local train derailed near Purbagomdandi Tetultala leaving five in Dohazari people injured, reports UNB. Witnesses said the bogies ran

off the track due to lack of necessary gravel and strong sleepers on the tracts.

The injured were given first aid at Boalkhali Thana Health Complex.

imprisonment

day, reports UNB.

2,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment. The convicted were Alal.

The court also fined them Tk

Jalal, Jabul, Sekam Afsar Ali, Akhter and Hasina.

following day.

After examining the records and witnesses, District and awarded the verdict against all

lage in Sripur thana was stabbed by Akter Hossain over family feud on May 21, 1994. He After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge

fazuddin. Complication in leasing out 126

Youth and Sports Ministries has led to complication in leasing out 126 khas water bodies According to the decision, the water bodies are to be leased

An official of the Youth Development Department told that most of the youth organisations formed in the district

Hence, all the water bodies having 3,684 acres were lying unutilised this year for cultiva-

were available every year from the water bodies.

list in Bandarban'