

News snaps

Work progressing

BANDARBAN, Aug 31: Three roads are being constructed under the supervision of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board to develop communication network in remote areas of the hill district, reports UNB.

The roads — Kibukchhora-Bakichhora, Vangchha-Tirdeem-Eldgarh-Baishari-Naikhongchhori-Lemuchhori and Rongchhori-Lemuchhori roads — are being constructed at a cost of Tk 39.83 crore under a special project. Board Chairman Bir Bahadur MP said works on the roads virtually began in 1997 and Tk 10 crore have already been spent in completing a major portion of the project.

Three killers to die

JAMALPUR, Aug 31: Three men were condemned to death by a court here Sunday in the sensational Fakir murder case, reports UNB.

The convicts were identified as Babu, Dipu and Haripad. The case history in brief: The three accused called Fakir out of his house on August 27, 1996 and he was missing since then until his body was recovered from the River Brahmaputra near Char-chalapara nine days later. The Additional District and Sessions Judge after examining witness and records found them guilty of murder and handed down the judgement. Of the convicts, Haripad remained absconding.

Kushtia public library budget

KUSHTIA, Aug 31: The annual general meeting of Kushtia Public Library was held in the library hall recently with senior executive committee member Mizanur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The annual budget of Taka 2,24,900 of the library for the year 1999-2000 was passed in the meeting. Dr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, general secretary of the public library, placed the report of the last year. Different measures have been taken this year for the improvement of the library.

Arms recovered: One held

JAMALPUR, Aug 31: Police arrested a man, said to be a gang leader from Bhatipara village in sadar thana and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession recently, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Zakir Hossain, wanted in dacoity and murder cases and nabbed him along with a foreign-made cut rifle and four rounds of cartridge.

Loan for rural poor

RAJBARI, Aug 31: The Social Welfare Directorate disbursed more than Taka 1.63 crore as interest-free loan among the rural poor of the four thanas here in the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 19,689 rural poor, both male and female, from Rajbari sadar, Gosalando, Pangsha and Bhalikandi thanas received the interest-free loan amounting to Taka 1.63,12,000. The loan was given under the poverty alleviation programme of the government. The borrowers utilised the loan in various income generating activities.

Allocation for uplift work

MAGURA, Aug 31: Facilities Department under the private college development scheme has allocated Tk 78 lakh for construction of academic buildings of two colleges here reports UNB.

The educational institutions are: Babukhali College in Mohammodpur and Dariapur Sammiloni College in Sirpur thanas. Construction works on the buildings are expected to be completed by the year-end, facilitating education of over 1,000 rural students.

Man killed in Habiganj road mishap

HABIGANJ, Aug 31: An old man was killed in a traffic mishap on Chunarughat-Amurod in Chunarughat thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Abdul Quddus, 60, of Gochapara village in Chunarughat thana was critically injured when a tempo hit him from behind in Ranikut area. He was rushed to sadar hospital, where he died after admission.

Training on land management

MANIKGANJ, Aug 31: A five-day training on land management concluded recently in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

A total of 50 field-level tahsildars, assistant tahsildars, surveyors, revenue assistants, certificate assistants and other employees of the Land Department took part in the training. The training course was inaugurated by Sheikh Mozahar Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj.

Loan for jobless youths

KHAGARCHHARI, Aug 31: The Youth Development Directorate disbursed Taka 17 lakh among the unemployed youths in Dighinala thana here, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the Youth Development Department Directorate imparted training to 322 unemployed youths, both male and female, in the thana on different subjects including poultry farming and pisciculture. A good number of youths have already started different income-generating projects utilising these loans.

Three girls gang raped

KURIGRAM, Aug 31: Three girls, including two sisters, were gang raped at village Charshoulmari in Roumari thana recently, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, Momin, Rob Mita, Salam, Latif, Hares and Souful of Ghugumari area picked up the girls from a deserted house at Ghugumari, took them to a nearby jungle and raped them overnight. The girls took shelter at the house during heavy rainfall while they were returning home after watching a movie at Roumari Bazaar along with their cousin on August 24. Police could not yet arrest anyone in this connection.

20 deep tube-wells reactivated

SHERPUR, Aug 31: As part of its countrywide deep tubewell rehabilitation programme, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation reactivated 20 inactive deep tubewells here in the fiscal 1998-99, reports UNB.

Officials said Bangladesh Rural Development Board registered 1,200 deep tubewells across the country for rehabilitation in a bid to enhance irrigation facilities during the lean season. They said 20 deep tubewells, 13 have been reactivated in Nalitabari while seven in Sribardi thana.

BKB loan for farmers

NETRAKONA, Aug 31: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed taka 34.28 crore as agriculture loan among 46,699 farmers of 10 thanas here in the 1998-1999 fiscal year, a BKB source said, reports BSS.

The BKB realised outstanding loan amounting to taka 20.55 crore from 19,619 borrowers through its 19 branches in 10 thanas here in the last fiscal year. The borrowers utilised the loan for purchasing cattle, fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural equipment and setting up of dairy and poultry farms.

Grains for destitutes

HABIGANJ, Aug 31: The government under its VGF programme has allocated some 42,100 tons of grains for the destitute people in eight thanas and four municipalities here, reports UNB.

Officials said Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate has provided rice and wheat to feed the poor people of the areas during the Bangla months of Bhadra, Ashwin and Kartik. Of the grains, 4,000 tons have been earmarked for sadar and Chunarughat thanas each while 6,500 for Nabiganj, 7,500 tons each for Baniachang and Madhabpur, 3,500 for Bahubal, 3,000 for Lakhal and 2,500 for Azmiriganj thanas. Besides, 900 tons of grains have been allocated for Habiganj, Shayestaganj, Madhabpur and Nabiganj municipalities each.

251 phone lines disconnected

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 31: As outstanding bills continued to heap up, Telegraph and Telephone Board disconnected 251 telephone lines in Bhairab thana in last one week, reports UNB.

Officials said they disconnected the telephone lines as arrears bills of Tk 50,000 remained unpaid by the subscribers. But the subscribers alleged that they could not pay the bills timely due to ghost billing by a section of corrupt officials. They urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action against the corrupt officials and convert their telephone lines into digital ones.

Youth succumbs to injuries

PATUAKHALI, Aug 31: A young man, who was critically injured in an armed attack, died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital SMCH on recently after four days' of fight for life, reports UNB.

Police said terrorists stabbed Kalam Peda, 30, of Sabujbagh area in the town and chopped off his leg while he was taking tea at a stall at College Road. He was taken to Patuakhali General Hospital and later on shifted to the SMCH as his condition sharply deteriorated on Wednesday. He died there on Saturday. Police could not yet arrest anyone in this connection.

Pabna dwellers deprived of basic amenities

From Ranesh Maitra



Unhealthy environment: Loitered wastes polluting the environment of densely populated Gopalpur area in Pabna Municipality. — Star photo



Submerged Beltala road near Pabna Shaheed Rafiq Girls' High School causes untold sufferings to the town dwellers of the area. Medium rainfalls have created such water logging here. — Star photo

PABNA, Aug 31: The century old Pabna municipality lacks all kinds of civic amenities, causing immense sufferings to nearly one lakh and seventy-five thousands people in the area.

The population of the municipality, which was established 124 years ago, has increased over the years but the numbers of roads, streets and lanes are not increased, resulting in chronic traffic jam in the town.

At least 20,000 rickshaws and rickshaw vans have been plying on the streets in Pabna municipality area. But the authorities concerned said only 4,000 rickshaws and rickshaw vans have licences, depriving the municipality of huge amount of revenue.

Usually no attempt to seize the unlicensed rickshaws and rickshaw-vans is made. But only during the 'Traffic weeks' authorities become active.

The roads and streets, which were damaged badly during the last year's floods, are not repaired for want of required funds. Numerous cracks and holes have developed on the roads and streets.

The town also lacks drainage and sanitation system. Several pucca drains were constructed in the last ten years. But those were not built as per plan, local people alleged. Besides, sub standard construction materials were used, they added.

Most of the areas under Pabna pourasabha are low-lying areas. Water logging is one of the main problems in the town. At least 60 per cent of the dwellers suffer from this problem for about six months every year.

The municipality authority cannot supply adequate water to the residents. The dwellers have to depend on tube-wells and pond waters.

The main kitchen market in the town remains in unhygienic condition. Bara Bazaar, the market, is usually strewn with litter and garbage. A large number of people crowd in the market everyday to purchase fish, meat and vegetables. Moreover, butchers slaughter animals in public place.

The municipality chairman, Mosharraf Hossain, said shortage of fund is main obstacle to addressing the problems.

Faces of H S C talents

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Aug 31: The cadets of Barisal Cadet College fared well in this year's Higher Secondary Education Certificate (HSC) examination held under Jessoro Education Board.

Abdullah Al Reza, a student of Barisal Cadet College scored the highest mark in the HSC examinations in all the five education boards of the country this year.

He secured the first position in the combined merit list in Science group in the HSC examination under Jessoro Education Board. He obtained 971 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Statistics.

He secured second position in the last SSC examination from this Barisal Cadet College in 1997. His father Md Rezaul Hossain is the divisional accounts officer of Roads & Highways (Ferry) division. His mother Salma Reza is a housewife. His hobby is playing games and

reading books. He wants to be a computer engineer.

M Alvi Ahmed stood second from the Science group in the HSC examination under Jessoro Education Board this year. He obtained 957 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics.

He is gentle and a meritorious student. He secured 10th place in the SSC examination in 1997 from this cadet college. His father late Nasser Ali hails from Udayan road of Gopalganj district. His mother is a housewife.

His hobby is reading various kinds of books. He wants to be an army officer.

Md Abdullah al-Mamun secured 12th position from the Science group. He obtained 891 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

His father Ayub Ali Khan Bangalee of BK Roy Road, Khulna is the founder chairman of Khulna Muktiyoddha Sangsad. He is the elder son of his parents. Reading of books is his hobby. Mamun wants to be an army officer in future.

Muhammad Mostafa stood 6th from the Science group. He obtained 909 marks in total with four letters in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics.

He stood 13th in SSC examination in 1997 from this college. His father Dr AKM Golam Mostafa hails from Galachipa in Patuakhali district. His mother is a housewife. Stamp collecting is his hobby. He wants to be an Army officer in future.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: The girl students of Jhenidah performed better in the HSC examination held under the Board of Intermediate

and Secondary Education (BISE) Jessoro this year.

Mita Nasrin of Jhenidah KC college stood 9th among the female students securing 861 marks. She scored letter marks in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

She used to read for about eight hours daily. She is not interested in student politics. She wants to be a doctor to serve the humanity. Her father KM Manwar Hossain is a lawyer in Jhenidah and mother Feroja Begum is a housewife.

Aparna Karmaker of Jhenidah Government Nurunahar Mohila College stood 9th in the combined merit list among the girls students securing 852 marks with letter marks in Home Economics, Social Welfare, Logic and Geography.

Her hobby is reading books. Usually she used to read for about seven hours daily. She wants to read in English literature. Earlier, she secured the 10th place in the combined merit list in SSC examination under the same board held in 1997. Her father Aftab Kumar Karmaker is a lecturer in Kali-ganj Mahtabuddin Degree College in Jhenidah while her mother Kalpana Sarkar is the Assistant Headmistress of the local Jamila Khatun Girls' High School. She is not interested in student politics, rather every body should be aware about politics, she said.

Farhana Raihan of Jhenidah Government Nurunahar Mohila College stood 17th in the combined merit list and 11th among the girls students. She got letter marks in Economics, Logic and Islamic Studies. She secured 835 marks. She usually read for 10 hours daily. She wants to be a lawyer. She is interested in student politics. But Farhana added that actually there had been no proper environment of student politics in our country, as almost all the students wings were involved in terrorism. Her father Raihanuddin is a businessman of Jhenidah and mother Shahana Begum works in the Family Planning department.



From top to bottom (1st row from left to right): Abdullah-al-Reza, M Alvi Ahmed, Iftekar Uddin Ahmed, Abdullah-al-Mamun (2nd row from left to right) Muhammad Mostafa, Mita Nasrin, Aparna Karmaker, Farhana Raihan. — Star photo

Erosion threatens Hardinge Bridge

PABNA, Aug 31: Unabated riverbank erosion and lack of maintenance have brought the Hardinge Bridge, the country's largest railway bridge, closer to breakdown, reports UNB.

To protect the bridge, the government had sanctioned Tk 4.25 crore in the third Five Year Plan to fill up the 1,000 feet apron from Damukdia guide embankment to South guide embankment.

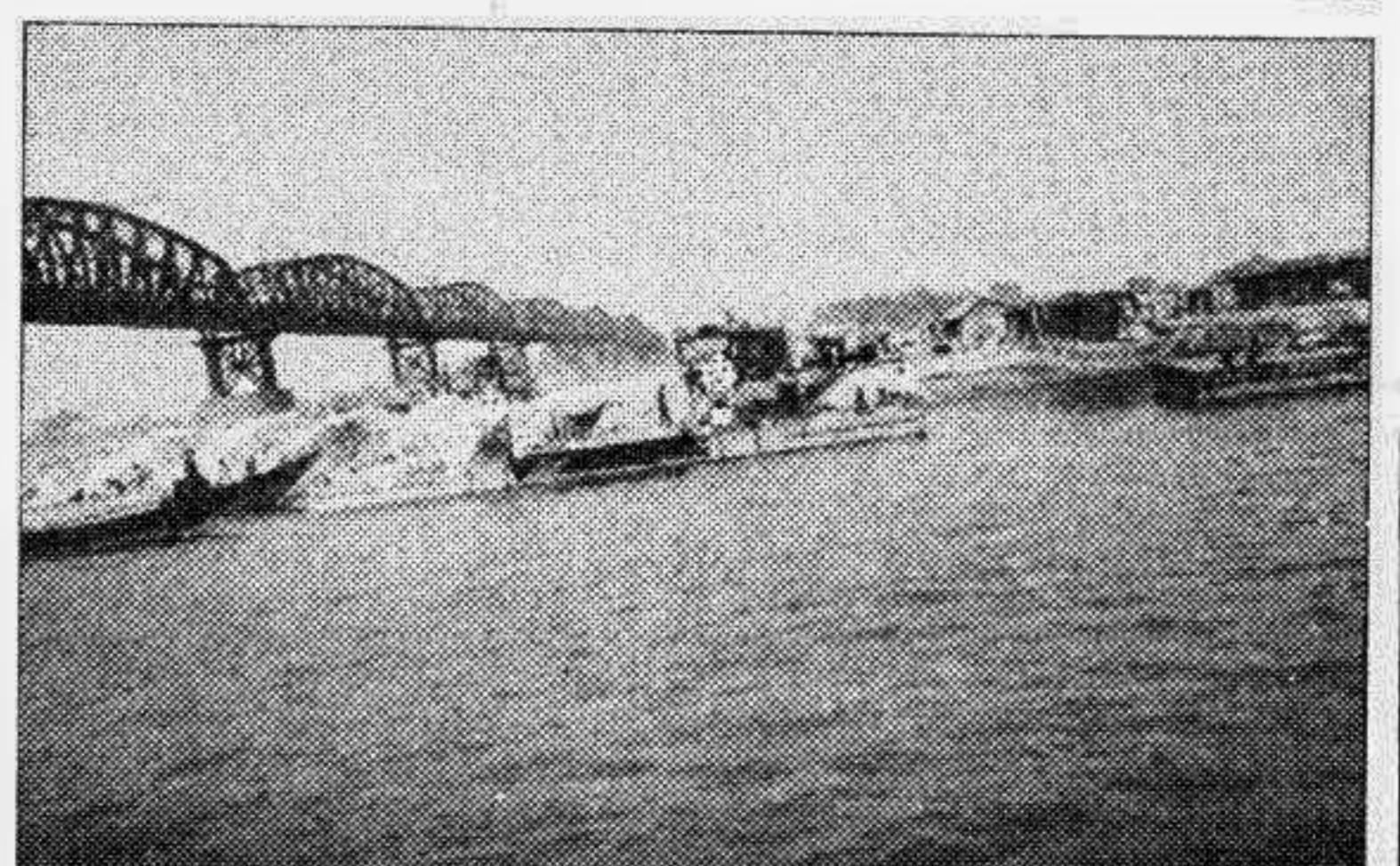
But the project could not yet be implemented for reasons unknown although a work plan was placed before the higher au-

thorities 10 years ago.

Due to technical reason, filling works in Damukdia portion of the bridge could not be done during its construction.

But the work was suddenly stopped in 1996, making a way for the thieves to pilfer the stones stockpiled near the bridge.

The old-age bridge is now under threat due to lack of necessary maintenance works and riverbank erosion that takes an alarming turn during the monsoon, said Hafizuddin, a local farmer.



Age-old bridge threatened: Hardinge Bridge at Paksey in Pabna district is threatened due to onrush of flood waters in the Padma. — Star photo

BAU Bangabandhu Hall to be opened soon

MYMENSINGH, Aug 31: The construction of the 10th residential hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) named 'Bangabandhu Hall' has been completed at a cost of Taka 6.30 crore, reports BSS.

The newly constructed hall is now awaiting inauguration through the procedure of admission and room allotment for the students.

According to the Director, Public Relation and Publication Department of the BAU, the four storied building in two blocks of the hall has 152 apartments having the capacity of 600 residents.

The 'Bangabandhu Hall' is the biggest residential hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University. It provides facilities for 600 residents including two dining halls, two kitchens, one canteen, one common room, one prayer room and a library.

Besides, provost and five house tutors, about 60 employees of different categories will be appointed for the hall.

The foundation stone of this hall was laid on June 30, 1996.

Man crushed under wheels of train

From A Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 31: A man fell from a running train and was crushed under the wheels at Lahiri Mohanpur railway station in the district on Friday evening, police said.

The victim was identified as Niran Chandra, 32, son of Balai Chandra Chowdhury of village Gonerhati under Sirajganj sadar thana.

The accident occurred when the victim on board Chauranabaganj-bound 5 down mail train was trying to alight from the train before it stopped at the station.

Railway police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj general hospital for autopsy. An unnatural death case was lodged.

Price-hike of fertilisers

KURIGRAM, Aug 31: Production of transplanted aman may fall short of the target as the price of fertiliser in all rural markets here has shot up abnormally, reports UNB.

A section of dishonest traders were allegedly creating confusion among the farmers to raise the price of fertiliser to make windfall profit.

Officials said 5,148 metric tons of fertiliser were allocated against 66 dealers for the current month of August.

Each dealer was asked to lift 55 tons of fertiliser from the buffer-stock and another 23 tons from the Jamuna Fertiliser Company Ltd (JFCL).

The dealers lift fertiliser only from the JFCL for which farmers had shown more interest amid confusion spread by some unscrupulous traders about the efficacy of fertiliser from the buffer-stock.

The Deputy Commissioner had convened a meeting of the dealers on August 22 to resolve the problem.

But the local Agriculture Extension Department (AED) did not play any role to remove the mistrust among the farmers about the quality of fertiliser from the buffer-stock, it was alleged.

AED sources said a total of 1.13 lakh hectares of land here were brought under transplanted aman with a production target of about 2 lakh metric tons.

Rapist gets 7-yr RI in Sirajganj

From A Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Aug 31: A man was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment and fined taka 5000, in default to suffer six months more, for violating a housewife.

Special Tribunal Judge Md M A Noor found Jahurul Islam Bakul of village Raidulotpur under Kamarkhand thana guilty and pronounced the verdict here recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that Jahurul Islam violated a housewife on July 1, 1995 in a crop field.

Nine injured in Feni clash

FENI, Aug 31: At least nine people were injured in an armed clash between two groups at Mohammad Ali Bazaar here on Monday over bringing a sex worker, reports UNB.

Police said local people with the help of Chhatra League activists caught some youths and a sex worker in the bazaar area, five km from the district town at noon and confined them at a house of Jochhina village.

Being informed, an armed group, led by Azami League worker Milon Chowdhury alias 'Kana Milon' attacked the village at 4pm to rescue the confined youths inflicting clash.

Two of the injured were identified as Iqbal and Kana Milon. Traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong highway was disrupted for an hour during clash.

Two shops, residence of Chhatra League leader Shah Alam and Sheikh Russel Smiti Sangsad were ransacked during the clash.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also arrested sex worker Shahana Begum and three youths — Ekram, Daud and Manik — from the spot.

Meanwhile, police rescued four kidnapped Juba League activists from Nalaballa cross dam area in Sonagaj thana on Monday night.

Mymensingh DIARY

BAUCSU cultural festival

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Aug 31: The Cultural Festival '99, organised by Bangladesh Agricultural University Central Students Union (BAUCSU) was held recently at the university campus.

Prof. Muhammed Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of BAU addressed the function as the chief guest with BAUCSU VP Md Abdus Salam in the chair.

Students Affairs' Advisor and Acting Proctor of BAU Ahmed Ullah Sarker, BAUCSU Treasurer Dr Md. Abul Khair Chowdhury, Md Rahamatullah and BAUCSU Cultural Secretary, among others addressed the function.

Later on the VC distributed prizes among the winners of the cultural competitions.

Microbus snatched away

A group of miscreants snatched away a microbus from Chelergat area in Trishal thana here after poisoning the food of the driver and helper of the vehicle at about 3 am on August 24.

Police said, three unidentified persons rented the car at Taka 1,200 for the whole day from Shamsul Hoque, the owner of the vehicle in Trishal Bazar. After travelling the whole day in different places, the vehicle reached at Chelergat at 3 am where the snatchers swallowed poison tactfully. They decamped with the vehicle as the driver and helper fell unconscious. The victims were identified as Khokon, the driver and Abdus Samad, the helper. The driver was admitted to a Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in a critical condition.

Child drowns

A child drowned in a pond at village Purua in Trishal thana here recently.

According to family sources, the boy identified as Pappu, 2, son of Abdus Sattar, drowned in the pond suddenly when his mother was taking bath in the pond. After searching, the boy was recovered from the pond and shifted to Trishal Thana Health Complex where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Life term for eight killers

A court here recently sentenced eight people to life in jail and fined Taka 2,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing a man.

The convicts are Jaban Ali, Joyanal, Joad Ali, Obayadul Akhtar, Najar Ali, Hasan, Abdul Hamid and Shamsul Hoque. According to prosecution story, Manuul Ali of village Nimtoli in Mukttagacha thana was killed by the convicts five years ago order a land dispute.

College students go on rampage

The agitated students of Mukttagacha Shaheed Smriti College went on rampage and ransacked the offices of the college following the very poor performance of the college in the Degree examinations this year.

The students became agitated observing the poor result in the degree examinations.

Man commits suicide

One person committed suicide in Halaughat thana here recently.

The victim was identified as Abul Kalam, son of Md Waheed Ali of village Dughphucha. According to police, and the victim's family sources, Kalam took insecticide in the morning on the day of the incident. He was rushed to Halaughat Health Complex in a critical condition where he breathed his last. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Body recovered

Police recovered the body of a man from a water body at Bishka union in Tarakanda thana here recently.

According to police, on being informed they recovered the body of a man identified as Abdul Halim, 35, of village Kauradh in Gouripur thana from a water body called 'Khairakuri Beel'.

Family sources said, Halim went out with Marfat Ali to visit his sister's house, but he did not return in just time. After a long search, his body was found under water of the beel.

Two unnatural deaths

A woman of village Gola-kup in Gouripur thana was electrocuted recently. The victim was identified as Jamela Khatun, 35. According to victim's family sources, Jamela came in contact with a snapped live wire when she came out at dead of night to respond to the nature's call. She died on the spot.

10 gamblers arrested

Trishal police arrested 10 gamblers including a union parishad member recently.

Police also recovered gambling materials and Taka 1,339 from the spot. The arrested persons are Golam Mustafa Sarker, Joyanal Abedin, Abul Hosen Khan, Shamsul Hoque Khokon, Abdur Sobhan Khan, Bhai Mita Bepari, Harul Alam Nazrul Islam, Jamaluddin Bepari and Babul.