

News snaps

Teesta dam work progressing

RANGPUR, Oct 15: Works on Teesta North Embankment, costing Tk 19.70 crore, are progressing fairly well, reports UNB. Water Development Board is implementing the project, stretching over Mohipur, Shingman, Fotamari and Aishapara of Gangachara thana, under the government's flood rehabilitation programme. CC blocks are being made for construction of a 2,210-metre long bank revetment and pitch coating, and dumping works. A 'spark' will be constructed at Fotamari in addition to a groyne under the project. Meanwhile, 60 per cent works of the project have been completed while the rest is likely to be completed by June 2000.

Steps to supply arsenic free water

FENI, Oct 15: Works on a water treatment plant undertaken at a cost of Tk 30 crore to ensure arsenic free water supply in the town, are going on in Tulbaria area, reports UNB.

Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) is implementing the project under its Urban Water and Sanitation Project with financial assistance from Danish Government. Jainal Abedin Hazari MP formally inaugurated that project works on October 5. Feni Pourasabha Chairman Robbad Ahmed, ADC (Revenue) Mainuddin Khandaker, Danida Project Director and senior officials were present. DPHE sources said it would take six months to complete the project and upon its completion some 70,000 people of Feni Pourasabha will get arsenic free water. They said five more such water treatment plants would be set up in five districts, including Feni and Noakhali, also with financial help from the Danish government.

Memo submitted to Naogaon DC

NAOGAON, Oct 15: Lawyers of the district have decided to boycott the court of First Class Magistrate Manzur Mursheed charging him with various irregularities, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the district bar association held with its president Advocate Yunus Ali in the chair. Earlier on September 22, the lawyers submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding removal of the Magistrate within seven days. The DC's inaction has forced the lawyers to go for court boycott, the meeting said in its resolution.

Phensidyl recovered

COMILLA, Oct 15: Police recovered 70 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Sangraha area in the town on Monday and arrested four people, including two women in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, Kotwali police raided the house of Aleya Bibi and arrested Aleya, Mila Bibi, Badul Alam and Babul Mia along with the drug. They were sent to court hajat.

Youth beaten to death

NAOGAON, Oct 15: A young man was beaten to death by the maternal uncle of his divorced wife at village Fatehpur in Damoirhat thana, reports UNB.

Local people and police said Babul Hossain, 30, of village Birgram verbally divorced his wife, Nasima Khatun. Angered by the divorce, Nasima's uncle Abdur Razak called in Babul to his house at Fatehpur on October 8 on the pretext of arbitration and beat him mercilessly. A critically injured Babul was brought to local health complex, where the attending doctors declared him dead. Mother of Babul lodged a murder case with the local police.

Construction of bridge begins

TANGAIL, Oct 15: The Roads and Highways Department has taken up a project for the construction of Bagutia bridge on Tangail-Mymensingh highway at a cost of taka 2,16,12,900 in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the construction work of the 42.8 metre bridge has begun recently. The bridge will be completed by the end of 2000, the source said.



The newly elected members of eighth executive committee of Rajshahi University Newspaper Forum taking oath on October 10 from Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University. — Star photo

Biennial confce of BCL

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 15: The biennial conference of Gokarno unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was held at Chairkury Bazar premises under Nasirnagar upazila on October 5, reports BSS.

Advocate Saidul Huque, MP, attended the conference as the chief guest. Presided over by Bashir Al-Helal, President of Nasirnagar Upazila Chhatra League, the conference was addressed, among others, by Brahmanbaria Pourashabha chairman Md Helal Uddin, Awami League leader B M Fakhrul Alam Shafiq, Lt (Rtd) Golam Noor, A C Deb, M A Rouf and Syed Liaqat Ali.

Housewife beaten to death

KURIGRAM, Oct 15: A young housewife was beaten to death by her husband at village Kafe in the outskirts of the town on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said Mohammad Ali alias Nitai started beating his wife, Aleya Begum, 28, following a quarrel after she demanded a saree. At one stage, Ali hit her on the head with a brick. A critically injured Aleya died at the local hospital, where Ali left her in unconscious condition. The victim's brother, Azizul, filed a case with the police in this connection.

Fugitive arrested

JHALAKATI, Oct 15: Police arrested an absconding accused from Station Road area in the town on Monday, reports UNB.

Sobhan, 35, of village Hailakati in Rajapur thana, was wanted in several cases, including killing and robbery. Another report adds: A young man committed suicide on Monday by taking pesticide at Chhota Premiar village in Nalchit thana. The dead was identified as the only son of police constable Nurul Islam. The cause behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Distribution of bank loan

MEHERPUR, Oct 15: Different commercial banks and Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB), as per directives of the government, will disburse agriculture loan amounting to Taka one crore in two upazilas in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, besides BKB, other banks are Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank and Janata Bank. The loan will be utilised not only in agricultural purposes, but also agriculture-related business like fish culture, poultry and dairy farming. Besides this loan, BKB and Sonali Bank will disburse over Taka 1.85 crore as crop loan for the cultivation of Boro paddy this year. The disbursement of loan has been started and it will continue upto April 2000.

T-Aman farming

MANIKGANJ, Oct 15: The cultivation of transplanted Aman paddy on an estimated 5,434 hectares is in full swing in seven upazilas in the current season, reports BSS.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, 3,458 hectares have been brought under high yielding varieties of T-Aman and 1,976 hectares under local variety. Agriculture loan was disbursed among the Aman growers by Krishibank and other commercial banks, and seeds and fertilisers were supplied by the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) to achieve optimum production.

Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti

RAJBARI, Oct 15: A cultural function organised by Rajbari Shilpkala Academy to mark the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam was held at its premises last week, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajbari, A S M Hanif Uddin Sarkar attended the function as the chief guest. Superintendent of Police Md Sohrab Hossain, among others, spoke on the occasion. Artistes of the Shilpkala academy presented Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet and took part in recitations and dance based on the works of the two great poets.

RU Pro-VC post still lying vacant

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Oct 15: The post of Pro-Vice Chancellor (Pro-VC) of the university has been lying vacant for more than two months after the nomination of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor (VC) on August 3.

The post remained vacant when the present VC Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan, who was the Pro-VC before his appointment as VC, Chancellor of the University President Shahabuddin Ahmed nominated him as the VC on August 3. Because he secured the highest vote in the RU Senate election held on June 19.

Since then, the VC has been performing the duties of both the VC and Pro-VC offices. The administrative works are also being hampered to a great extent for this reason.

However, much enthusiasm has been created on the campus regarding the nomination of the Pro-VC.

All the leading 'Ravindra group' teachers, backed by ruling Awami League and left leaning parties, have been lobbying in the political high-ups for the post, teachers said.

Some of the interested teachers are: Proctor Prof Mokhlesur Rahman, Prof Wazed Ali, Prof Jafrikar Matin, Prof Khairul Alam Khan and others.

3 Sirajganj JCD activists mugged

From A Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Oct 15: Three activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were severely stabbed and cash amounting to Taka 62 thousand were looted from their possession by a group of muggers near village in Shorupur in Shahjadpur thana in the early hours on Wednesday.

According to witnesses, the incident took place when they were returning home with the money after selling a land. The condition of stabbed Abdul Bari, a student of degree third year of Bera College who is a JCD worker was stated to be critical. Sattar and Babul, two other local workers of JCD also sustained injuries.

They were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital for treatment.

Newborn twin sold!

NARAIL, Oct 15: A mother with pangs of poverty sold her newborn twin in exchange of Taka two thousand and a saree on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Shiarun, 28, wife of Abdul Hakim Mandol, was admitted to Narail Sadar Hospital on October 10 with labour pain and gave birth to twin on the same day.

She sold one of her three-day-old babies for Tk 1,000 and a saree to an unknown person while another for Tk 1,000 to Mohidul Islam of Bhangura village.

Barisal violence leaves 5 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 15: At least five people were injured, a shop and three houses damaged and ransacked amid indiscriminate explosion of bombs in Kauna area along the western side of the town on Tuesday night.

According to local people and witnesses, some accomplices of a rebel BNP leader Milton attacked the house of Nannu in Sadur Battala of Kauna area at night.

The unruly mob was led by Wahed and Mosharrif. Nannu's family sources said. Two seriously injured persons of the house were sent to hospital after the incident.

Afterwards, another group, seemingly rivals attacked the house of Joint Secretary of JCD city committee Masheul Alam Seriu, who is the principal accused of Zahir Murder Case. They ransacked the house at about 10:30 pm on October 12 night.

They created a reign of terror blasting innumerable bombs in the area for an hour.

Later on, they attacked and damaged the business establishment of Wahed in Natunbazar in the town.

Armed violences by terrorists are going on almost unabated for the last few days in different parts of the town.

20 injured in BCL-ICS clash

CORILLA, Oct 15: A fierce clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Dekra bazar in Chhodagram thana on Sunday evening left at least 20 activists of both groups injured, reports UNB.

Locals and police said the clash ensued in sequel to a previous enmity between the rival groups.

During the clash both the groups fired over 100 rounds of gunshots which left 12 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student front of ruling Awami League and eight activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student front of Jamaat-e-Islami, injured.

Of the injured, two bullet-ridden BCL activists, whose conditions were stated to be critical, shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

As tension was mounting up, heavy contingent of riot police deployed there to avert further trouble.

An official said initially five thanas-- Sadar, Gabtali, Shibir-

National Erosion threatens Chandpur Railway Station

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 15: Erosion by the River Meghna is continuing along Chandpur Town Protection Embankment, threatening the existence of century-old main Chandpur Railway Station.

Erosion in the area started since September 29.

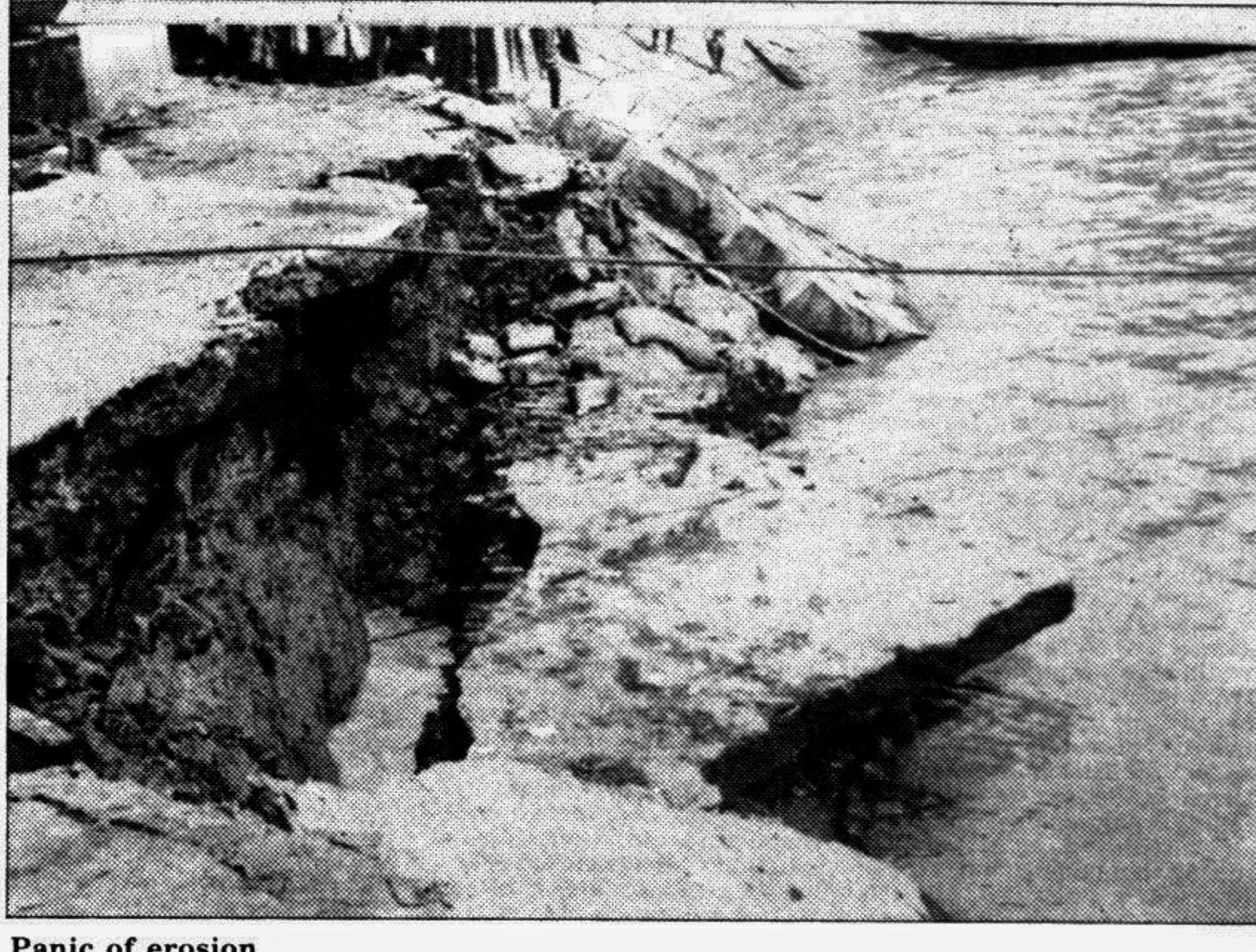
According to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Chandpur, about 3 thousand 5 hundred square feet area along the southern side of the railway station have so far been eroded by the River Meghna.

As a result about 40 per cent area of the Railway Fish Market have been eroded. So far 42 fish hatcheries have been devoured and 50 fish trading establishments have been dismantled. Besides, 25 such other establishments have been shifted to safer places.

Now the main Chandpur Railway Station stands within 50 feet of the eroded area. Many shopkeepers have become panic and have been shifting their business establishments.

BWDB personnel have been trying to protect the town protection embankment by dumping boulders in the eroded areas. So for about one thousand CC blocks have been dumped along the affected area. Strong current of the River Meghna has intensified the erosion in the area.

Abul Basher, secretary of the fish market told this correspondent that there had been no erosion in the area for the last 4 years. This year erosion started alarmingly causing huge damages to the fish traders in the



Panic of erosion
Chandpur fish ghat is being eroded unabated by the River Meghna.

— Star photo

rail station area.

Cracks have appeared in many areas of Chandpur Town Protection Embankment. Government has sanctioned Taka 5 crore 80 lakh for protecting the town in 1998-99. Due to shortage of fund the town protection embankment work has remained unfinished till

now.

Local office of WDB has suggested a plan involving Taka 50 crore for the town protection work. Due to fund constraints this plan also could not be implemented.

If the erosion continues at the present pace, the entire railway station along with the

fish market will be eroded within a short time.

Md Harunur Rashid, Executive Engineer of BWDB said that they had been working day and night to protect the main railway station and the fish ghat from the onslaught of the Meghna erosion.

Rectified spirit recovered

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Oct 15: Five litres of rectified spirit were recovered in the town recently.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the rectified spirit from a shop adjacent to Nupur Cinema Hall on October 10. None was arrested in this connection. A case was filed in this connection.

Youth killed in road accident

A young man was killed when a running truck hit him from behind in Sundarganj thana recently.

The victim was identified as Jainul Abedin, 17, of village Chandpur under Gobindaganj thana. Abedin died on his way to hospital. The driver managed to flee the scene. Police, however, seized the truck.

Housewife commits suicide

A housewife of village Fulher under Gobindaganj thana committed suicide by taking pesticide recently.

She was identified as Fatema Begum, 20. The victim took pesticide following a quarrel with her family members. The woman died in hospital.

Rotten rice recovered

A surveillance team led by thana administration officials recently raided food godowns and shops in Fulchhara thana and recovered 147 bags of rotten rice.

The team conducted raid in Fulchhara Ghat bazaar area. Local people said unscrupulous rice traders mixed rotten rice with quality rice. Cases against five traders were filed.

Man strangled

A man was strangled at village Purbo Chapper Hati under Sunderganj thana recently.

The man was identified as Bakter Ali, 35. Police said following an altercation, Fazlur Rahman of the same village strangled him. A case was filed in this connection.

Two with weapons held

Local people caught two persons with sharp weapons from village Manoharpur under Sadullapur thana recently.

The two were roaming in the area at the dead of night. They were identified as Sairul Mia and Ahad Ali. They were handed over to police.

Road in bad shape

Innumerable cracks and holes have developed on Laxmipur-Kamarpur road, causing sufferings to local people.

Bus, truck, rickshaw, and rickshaw van ply on this important road. Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to repair the road.

2 labourers drown

Two labourers were drowned in a canal in Palashbari on September 6.

</