

Shrimp worth Tk 100 cr lying at Mongla Port

Vessel crisis seriously affecting shrimp exporters in Khulna zone

From Our Correspondent

Such untoward and abnormal situation causes the breach of contracts with buyers. In the meantime, the European Community indicated that Bangladesh may be totally barred from exporting shrimp and other sea foods unless significant improvement was made in handling and processing of the food items, according to an official of the Fisheries Department. A FAO programme officer in Bangladesh recently said that the consumers and importers in Europe, USA and Japan have expressed concern over the quality of sea food and demanded further improvement in quality control and inspection measures. It was due to increase — in food-borne diseases caused by microbiological spoilage. According to the FAO statistics 36 per cent of Bangladesh shrimp products are exporting to the USA, 37 per cent in Europe and 12 per cent to Japan. All these countries have recently imposed on all the imports of sea foods products the requirement of a system called, hazard analysis at critical control points

KHULNA, Oct 30: Vessel crisis hinders the export of frozen foods in Mongla port. Shrimp worth Tk one hundred crore are lying for export abroad. This season from September to November months are considered the peak season of shrimp export.

If necessary container vessels are not arranged on emergency basis 120 containers of shrimps worth Taka one billion will be wasted. Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association, Khulna zone expressed their great concern for acute crisis of vessels in Mongla Port. Atter Rahman on behalf of Association told in a press statement that the price of shrimp has fallen recently in international market. The factory owners and exporters bought shrimps at higher price and processed the same in hurry for immediate shipment before fall of price in overseas market. But the exporters failed to ship the shrimp in time due to heavy crisis of vessels in Mongla port incurring irreparable losses as the overseas market fell. Vessels crisis is a perennial crisis in Mongla Port. When Chittagong Port is frequently faced with problems of ever growing number of container feeder vessels shippers in Khulna area are facing chronic shortage of the same at Mongla Port.

Because of shortage of feeder vessels and dry containers, especially shrimp exporters failing to ship their cargoes timely causing annoyance to buyers abroad. The competent sources said that while more than 30 feeder vessels of eight operators call at Chittagong Port

every month, only three or four vessels of two operators call at Mongla port. In 1994-95 only 376 vessels called at Mongla Port as against 1172 vessels at Chittagong Port. In the same year Mongla Port handled 16039 containers against 22,712 handled at Chittagong. This situation at Mongla Port is creating problems for number of reasons.

According to the agents of shipping lines, feeder vessel operators avoid Mongla Port for both, technical and commercial reasons. Longer distance between pilot ground and the port and draft problem are the two major technical reasons discouraging the ships to call at Mongla. Inward and outward journeys to and from the pilot ground to the port consume more time and thus operating cost goes higher due to low draft in the Pussur river channel and at the jetty. Vessels with full load and heavy draft can't enter Mongla Port. So vessels with full load call first at Chittagong Port for lightening and then go to Mongla which involves additional cost and time.

Containerised import cargoes for Mongla Port is far less than Chittagong and the cost of loading and unloading at Mongla Port is higher than that of Chittagong. Feeder vessels with containers call first at Chittagong port and after discharging, generally take full load of export containers from there and set out for Singapore or Colombo ignoring the small load available at Mongla. Moreover feeder vessels calling at Mongla either from Chittagong or Singapore or Colombo are required to carry empty containers in-

volving time. As most of the vessels do their loading and unloading operations at the anchorage, operational cost of the ship owner is comparatively high at Mongla Port than that of Chittagong Port. Besides, duration of ships at Mongla is prolonged due to slow pace of loading and unloading with the resultant increase of the operating cost at the ship owners. Naturally the acute crisis of vessels create a manifold problems for exporters especially shrimp at Mongla Port.

Recently a feeder vessel named "Lunka Mohapora" called at Mongla Port and got loaded dry cargoes in hurry leaving behind shrimp in port and set out for Singapore.

The present international shrimp market is very sensitive and fluctuating in hope and despair. At any time price may further fall in hard competition. For that reason the exporters are always keen to make early shipment just after processing of shrimp to avoid incurring loss. All exporters of Khulna zone are passing with great anxiety not being able to ship their shrimps in time to avoid the cumulative price falls in overseas market. But failed due to lack of available vessels. The consecutive price fall and delayed shipment compel the exporters to supply the same at reduced rate to keep valid the contracts with the buyers in overseas.

Such untoward and abnormal situation causes the breach of contracts with buyers. In the meantime, the European Community indicated that Bangladesh may be

totally barred from exporting shrimp and other sea foods unless significant improvement was made in handling and processing of the food items, according to an official of the Fisheries Department. A FAO programme officer in Bangladesh recently said that the consumers and importers in Europe, USA and Japan have expressed concern over the quality of sea food and demanded further improvement in quality control and inspection measures. It was due to increase — in food-borne diseases caused by microbiological spoilage. According to the FAO statistics 36 per cent of Bangladesh shrimp products are exporting to the USA, 37 per cent in Europe and 12 per cent to Japan. All these countries have recently imposed on all the imports of sea foods products the requirement of a system called, hazard analysis at critical control points.

So it clearly indicates that the present overseas shrimp market is very tough to control unless the Bangladesh exporters perform properly as asked by the buyers. Timely shipment, quality improvement and hygiene standard are the most important factors of shrimp export in overseas market. If we fail to fulfil the terms & conditions imposed by the buyers in international market, obviously the buyers may look up to alternative suppliers of shrimps from other countries to ensure their deals in time.

This stagnant condition causes problems of finished goods and blocking money of exporters to buy new raw materials. 80 per cent of total production of shrimp comes from Khulna zone and only

50 per cent of shrimps are exported through the Mongla Port while the rest 50 per cent is exported through Chittagong Port. The shrimp processing plants of Khulna zone can utilise only 40 per cent of production capacity. Rest capacity can't be exploded due to lack of shipment facilities in Mongla Port. As raw materials are abundantly available here, the factories of Khulna belt easily can utilise upto 80 per cent production capacity of the shipment facilities.

Normally the export of shrimp increases thrice in a year. The foreign buyers import huge quantities of shrimps in September to November on the occasion of great Christmas day. The buyers secondly prefer to place orders from Bangladesh for shrimp on the occasion of Ester holiday. The export volume also increases in May to June to meet the bank dues of exporters.

Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association appealed to the government in a general meeting on September 24 last to solve the vessels crisis at Mongla Port and bring a congenial atmosphere of rapid shipment of ready shrimp to facilitate the smooth export of shrimps in big volume for the great interest of the country.

Otherwise, Bangladesh would sure to lose the shrimp market abroad. The maximum exporters of shrimps of Bangladesh are in heavy tension when their contacts are ruled out by the buyers for abnormal delayed shipment. Abnormal crisis of ships are still prevailing in Mongla port creating tension amongst the shrimp exporters.



SYLHET: A mourning rally was brought out in Sylhet by the students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology at the death of Zahid Karim Raju, a student of the university, in the tragic train mishap at Setgaon last week. Five persons were killed in the accident.

Tribal insurgents loot Tk 5 lakh

From CHT Correspondent

BANDARBUN, Oct 30: Goods worth over Taka five lakh from 12 boats were looted by the marauding tribal insurgents at Betchhora, 15 kilometre south-east of Bandarban town on Wednesday last at gun-point, police sources said.

A gang of 20-25 armed tribal insurgents compelled to shore 12 passenger-carrying engine-fitted boats loaded with merchandise by opening 8-10 rounds of blank fire. The plunderers forced the merchants and boatmen depart from the boats at gun-point and looted away the cash (and kind worth over Taka five lakh, police noted the victims as saying.

Meanwhile, a tribal insurgent, after actively taking part in insurgency for about seven years, gave him up to the security forces at Zuraehari in Rangamati hill district recently.

Corporal Bijoygiri Chakma, an armed cadre of the Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity, fed up with the aimless struggle in the name of achieving autonomy has left the uncertain insurgency life to work with the mainstream of the nation for uplift of his community.

"Hundreds of tribal insurgents, fed up with their life of uncertainty, have been waiting for a chance to come back to normal life," Bijoy told The Daily Star at Bandarban on October 15 last at the time of his reunion with relatives there.

Bijoy was provided with financial assistance instantly from Zuraehari zone authority with assurance to provide him with land and cows to plough, the surrendered Shantibahiniman said in a relaxed mood.

Teen-aged girl rescued

SATKHIRA, Oct 30: A teen-aged girl, kidnapped early this month, was recovered last Wednesday by the police from sadar thana's Sultampur village, reports UNB.

The school girl, Anjuara Khatun, 15, was kidnapped by some miscreants from their residents at Karibati in Kaliganj thana while she was reading at night on October 7 last.

Her father Abu Bakar filed a case with the Kaliganj police.

Following a tip off, police raided the house of Abdul Ahad of Sultampur village and recovered the girl.

Diarrhoea claims six lives in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Oct 30: Diarrhoea claimed six lives, including three of the same family and affected over 100 people in last three days in Bahubol thana of the district, reports UNB.

Local people said three people of the same family in the thana Sarongpur village — Wahed Ali, 25, Metri Bap, 50, and Kiti Bibi, 22, died of the water-borne disease Sunday morning.

Another three people died and some 1000 people were attacked by the disease that broke out with the recession of flood water in the low lying areas of Baniachon, Laghal, Nabiganj and Azmirigonj thanas.

Consumption of adulterated food and taking of impure water were the main reasons behind the outbreak of the diseases, the physicians said.

The affected people have urged the government to despatch medical teams and necessary medicines to the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

Fake NGOs undergoing mushroom growth

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 30: Number of fake Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have been increasing alarmingly in different places of the district, some of which have defalcated at least Taka one crore by cheating jobless people with the assurance of providing them with jobs, it was alleged.

According to reports, the alleged evil activities of the fake NGOs have been operating in Sailkupa thana of the district. Development For Poor Society (DFPS), Prerna, Socio-Economic and Environment Improvement Foundation (SEEIF), Pipasha, National Economic and Environment Development Society (NEEDS), Ashar Alo and some other organisations have been running their activities in Sailkupa thana for last few years without permission from NGO Affairs Bureau, it was alleged.

Some jobless young people alleged that they deposited between Taka three thousand and ten thousand to find jobs. B M Azizur Rahman, a Divisional Coordinator of Development For Poor Society (DFPS) opened an office at village Kabirpur in Sailkupa thana of the district in March this year. He allegedly collected at least Taka twenty lakh from about 200 jobless young men and women promising to provide them with jobs in various posts. The money was collected for admission fees, security money, insurance and some other purposes.

Selina Khatun, 25, a housewife of village Dhulia-para in Sailkupa thana alleged that B M Azizur Rahman, who was known as Aziz Sarkar, collected Taka seven thousand from her assuring to providing her with a job and asked the job seeker to pay Taka fifteen hundred as bribe for first three months. After giving six months' service while the innocent housewife claimed her salary and other allowances, some of the hoodlums threw her out side the office forcibly, she alleged.

Some of the job seekers further alleged that Aziz Sarkar immediately changed the name of his office hanging a signboard reading "Prerna" instead of the previous signboard of DFPS, it was further alleged.

Nurul Haq of village Bijulia in the same thana who was known as Chand Rajakar opened an office at village

Fajilpur in the thana in the name of DFPS and defalcated at least Taka five lakh from the job seekers. He also opened an office at Arappur in Jhenidah pourashava area as its district office and allegedly defalcated another Taka five lakh. All these offices are now under lock and key, it was observed.

Ekota Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (TAS), another fake NGO, was inaugurated at village Kabirpur in Sailkupa thana of the district. A local MP inaugurated it in a function where the owner of the organisation claimed it as a social welfare organisation.

When contacted Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah informed that he was informed about some fake NGOs operating in the district. According to sources, names of some 20 to 25 NGOs were registered as he was informed by the NGO Affairs Bureau. Among them Srijoya, Cidak, CCDB, Prodipon, Palli Karma Sahayak Sangstha, Unnayan Dhara (UD), Gano Sahajyo Sangstha, Uddipan, Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parishad (SNSP), Welfare Efforts (WE), Gano Jagoran, Seba Sangstha, Udbhabani, Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, BRAC, Consciousness Raising Centre (CRC), Dip Shikha, Paradise, Aisedup, BDPC, Jagarani Chakra, Sidon, RIDO, Save, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and BGNC were so far enlisted, sources said.

It may be noted here that earlier Sailkupa thana police arrested an owner of an NGO from village Chandpur in Sailkupa thana of the district for his alleged involvement in collecting money from the innocent people of the same village.

Some people of Sailkupa further alleged that Aziz Sarkar, so called District Coordinator of DFPS and then Prerna, was earlier awarded jail term for his alleged involvement with forgery of bank money. A few years back he also defalcated at least Taka two lakh from a local branch of a commercial bank in the names of some innocent farmers of Umedpur Union which was recovered from them by the bank authorities, it was alleged.

The people of Sailkupa appealed to the authorities to curb the evil activities at an early date to save the jobless young people. They also demanded exemplary punishment to the cheats.

Soil fertility declining in southern districts

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 30: Random use of chemical fertilizers in the southern district is deteriorating the fertility of soil.

Due to the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers for a long time the fertility of the soil is declining resulting in a much lower production of various crops, informed sources said.

According to recent survey conducted by the Land Resources Development Institute, bio degradable materials in farm land in the southern region have decreased alarmingly. This ratio should be 3.44 per cent normally but the ratio has decreased from 2.62 per cent to 0.71 per cent in different places.

The survey reports further revealed that the fertility of land have also decreased due to gradual increase of salinity in the river water, canals and other water sources in this area.

Experts said, farmers of this region do not know the actual ratio of mixing fertilizers in their land, as a result

the natural fertility of the land cultivated for production of crops is hampered.

In that case, concerned authority like BADC should let the farmers know to use the fertilizers properly in their cultivated land through motivational work or training, informed sources viewed.

Concerned authority further informed that the production of crops in southern region has been decreased in between ten to fifteen per cent during last ten years.

Boatman drowns

SATKHIRA, Oct 30: A boatman drowned in Betna river near Jhaudanga area in sadar thana on last Friday evening, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Enam Ali, 40, of village Jhaudanga in the same thana.

According to witnesses, while plying a country-made boat in the mid river Enamul suddenly fell down into the deep water.

Some successful HSC candidates — they deserve the achievements

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 30: Pabna Cadet College, set up on August 7, 1981, in its labourious journey in obtaining better results in the public examinations for its students, made a glorious result in the HSC examinations of 1995 under the

who stood first in SSC examinations of 1993 from the same college.

Khondker Masud Parvez, son of Khondker Abul Hosain of Gorai Nazirpara, Mirjapur, Tangail secured eight place in the HSC examina-

Kushtia, stood eleventh in the HSC examination this year which he secured tenth place in the combined merit list of the Rajshahi Board SSC examinations held in 1993.

In the humanities group, two places were captured by

jamuddin Asghar Ali College Pabna, secured four places in the combined merit list which was topped by a girl named Musammat Tahura Parveen (18).

Besides, Md Abu Hanif Khan stood twelfth, Musam-

mat Asma Parveen secured 18th and Muhammad Sirajul Islam occupied nineteenth place in the said combined merit list in the commerce group in HSC examinations this year.

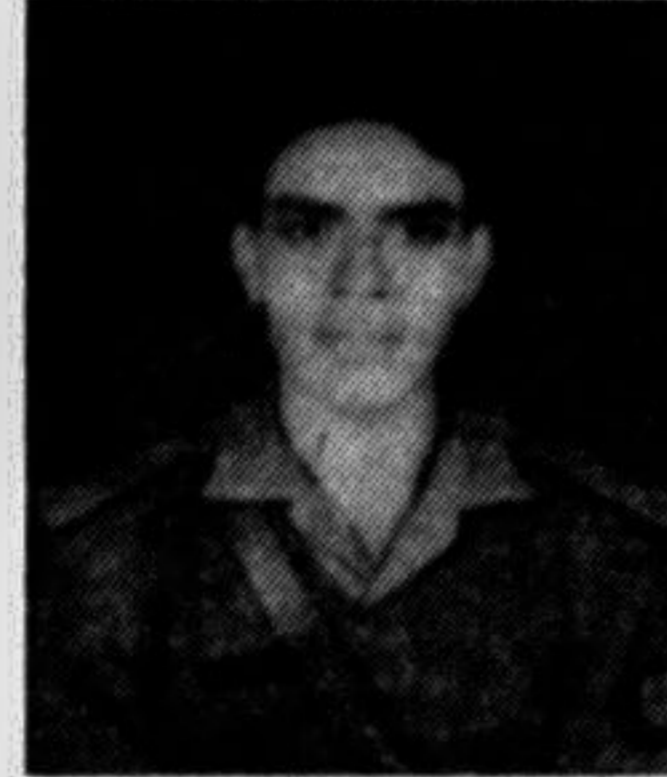
Miss Tahura Parveen, who stood first in the board, secured 795 marks with two letters in accountancy and statistics. Md Abu Hanif Khan stood twelfth securing 716 marks with a letter in statistics. Miss Asma Parveen stood eighteenth by securing 702 marks with a letter in statistics while Md Serajul Islam captured nineteenth place in the same group and obtained letter marks in statistics.



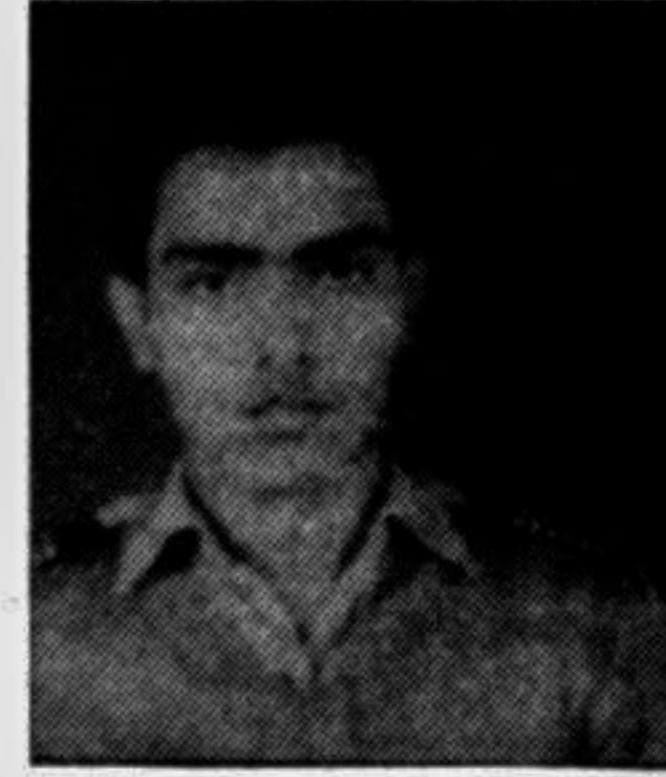
Md Ariful Islam



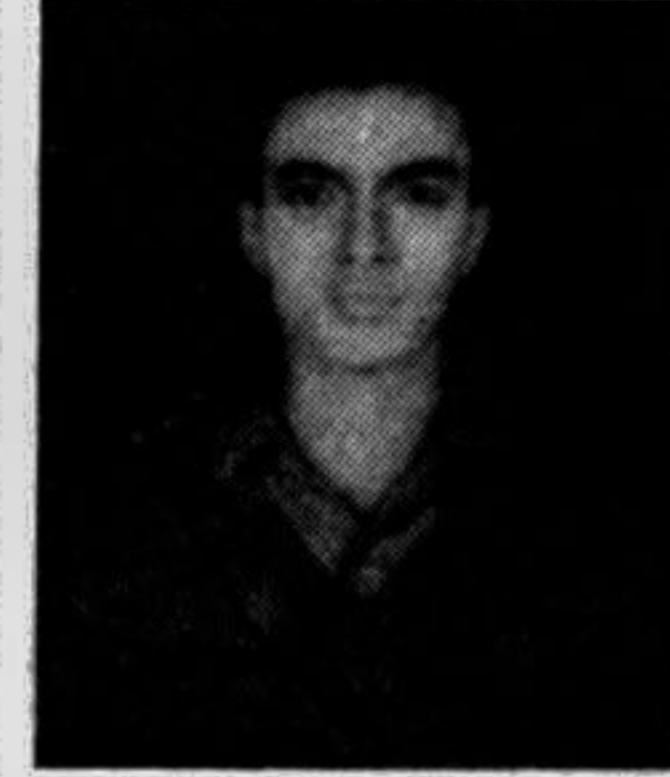
Md. Naimul Islam



Khandakar Masud Parvez



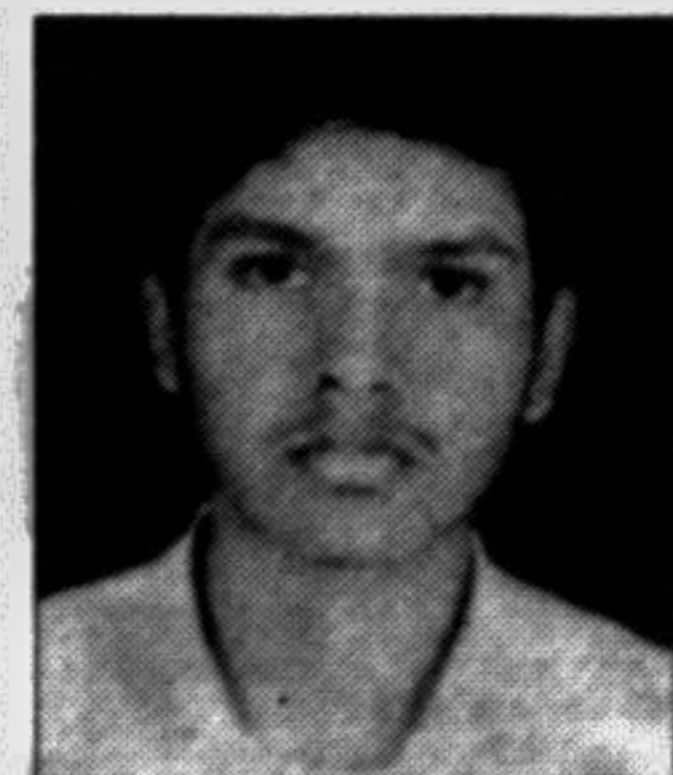
Md. Hassan Kobir



Md Taufique Arkin



Neloy Rahman



Md Ahsanul Adeb



Rokeya Ibrahim Fakir



Asma Parveen



Musammat Jahura Parveen

Rajshahi Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education when the college reached its fifteenth year of foundation.

Eminent educationist and poet, Abul Ashraf Noor, Principal, Pabna Cadet College, disclosed to The Daily Star while talking about the HSC results of his institution this year that as many as seven examinees from his institution secured place in the combined merit list of the Board securing third, eighth, eleventh, thirteenth and eighteenth places in the Science group and also sixth and eighth places in the humanities group.

Neloy Rahman, son of AKM Ataur Rahman stood third in HSC examinations this year in the science group

tions this year, stood second in the SSC examinations of 1993 from the Rajshahi Board from the same institution.

Ahmed Ibne Sayeed Khan Sujan, son of Sayeed Ahmed Khan from Narayanganj, secured 13th place in the science group while, he stood 14th in the SSC examination from the Rajshahi Board in 1993.

Md. Towfiq Arefin, son of Zebunnahar, Principal Officer, Rupali Bank, Head office at Diluksha, Dhaka, stood 18th, in the science group this year. He secured 17th place in SSC exams from the Rajshahi Board in 1993.

Md Nayeemul Islam, son of Md Altaf Hossain Biswas of Fakirabad of Patikabari,

the examinees from Pabna Cadet College in the HSC examinations of Rajshahi Board this year. They are: Syed Shahed Hasan, son of Syed Hasan Jan of village Mirpur in Kushtia district. He stood sixth in the HSC examination. He secured star marks in the SSC examination of 1993.

Mohammad Ariful Islam, yet another brilliant student, secured the eighth position in the HSC examination this year. He obtained first place in the combined merit list of the SSC examinations held under the Rajshahi Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education in 1993 from the enough of social science.

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mat Asma Parveen secured 18th and Muhammad Sirajul Islam occupied nineteenth place in the said combined merit list in the commerce group in HSC examinations this year.

Miss Tahura Parveen, who stood first in the board, secured 795 marks with two letters in accountancy and statistics. Md Abu Hanif Khan stood twelfth securing 716 marks with a letter in statistics. Miss Asma Parveen stood eighteenth by securing 702 marks with a letter in statistics while Md Serajul Islam captured nineteenth place in the same group and obtained letter marks in statistics.

Miss Tahura Parveen, who won the enviable first posi-

Dhaka College obtaining 958 marks. He had eleventh position at SSC Examination securing 906 marks from Government Laboratory High School. On scholarship Adeb wants to go abroad for higher studies.

Rokeya Ibrahim Fakir, who secured 4th position among the girls appearing at the HSC examinations under Dhaka Board, expresses her desire to be a computer engineer.

A student of Viqueerunnessa Noon College, Rokeya also captured the 9th position in combined merit list scoring a total of 935 with distinction in four subjects.

She is the youngest daughter of M I Fakir, Manager Jiban Bima Corporation.