

News snaps

Aman farming may fall short of target

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 27: The target of Aman cultivation during the current season in the district may not be achieved due to flood, reports UNB. Agriculture Extension Department sources said acute scarcity of seeds and seedlings has been prevailing in the district. They said most of the seedbeds had been damaged by the devastating flood. The target of Aman cultivation in the district had been fixed at 50,021 hectares of land but the farming is being hampered due to various reasons. According to them the seedbeds were prepared on 2,714 hectares of land to meet the demand of the cultivators. But the seedbeds on 840 hectares of land have been damaged completely due to the prolonged flood creating a shortfall in the supply of seedlings.

6 killers get life term

BOGRA, Sept 27: Six people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment on charge of double murder, court sources here said today, reports UNB. The convicted Alauddin, Khasru, Rabiul, Shamim, Iqbal and Amjad were also fined Tk 5,000 each. In default, to suffer one year more. According to the prosecution, in brief, the accused stabbed to death Hayat and Bhulu of Sadar thana following a quarrel centering a woman on November 27, 1993. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against eight people. After examining the witnesses and records Additional District and Sessions Judge AMM Sayed awarded the punishment last week acquitting two others.

Call to expedite disbursement of agri-loan

MYMENSINGH, Sept 27: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah called upon the bank officials to expedite the disbursement of agricultural loan to the flood affected farmers in their respective areas, reports BSS. He was addressing a rally of deputy general managers and branch managers of Agrani, Krishi, Sonali, Janata and Rupali banks of Mymensingh district in the conference room of the Zila Parishad here yesterday. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam, the rally was addressed, among others, by district Awami League president Alhaj Md Matur Rahman, general secretary Nazimuddin Ahmed and members of the district disaster management committee.

Plan to rehabilitate 1,260 farmers

SUNAMGANJ, Sept 27: The Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a programme to rehabilitate 1,260 poor farmers in the district, reports UNB. AED officials said the rehabilitation programme will be implemented on 420 acres of land in different thanas of the district. The programme will cost over Tk 7.31 lakh, said the officials. Under the programme, Boro will be cultivated on 190 acres of land while wheat on 150 acres, pulses on 30 acres, oilseeds in another 30 acres and vegetables on 20 acres.

Durga Puja in Narayanganj

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 27: The five-day Saradiya Durga Puja one of the greatest religious festivals of the Hindu, began here today with due religious fervour and solemnity, reports BSS. According to district administration, a total of 94 images of the goddess Durga have been set up in different puja mandaps of the district, of which 36 have been set up in Narayanganj sadar thana. On the day of Shasti today, the first day of the celebrations, the goddess Durga was welcomed blowing out conches, ringing bells and beating drums. The other programmes include Puja Archana, Aroti, Kumari Puja and distribution of prasad.

Drain modernising scheme progressing

TANGAIL, Sept 27: Tangail Pourashava has been implementing a scheme for modernising drainage system of Tangail town at a cost of Taka 55,23,161, reports BSS. According to a pourashava source, under the scheme 2,470 metres of drainage is now under construction in different areas of the town. The work of the scheme taken under twenty-two mid-towns development project two of the government will be completed by November next.

BKB programme to disburse agri-loan

RAJBARI, Sept 27: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme to disburse Tk 21.46 crore among the farmers of the district to overcome the losses of the devastating flood, reports UNB. The loan will be disbursed through 13 branches of the bank across the district to strengthen the rural economy during the post-flood period. Of the total amount, Tk 16.52 crore will be given in the crop sector while the rest Tk 4.94 crore for other sectors, said the official sources. In Rajbari Sadar, Tk 6.82 crore will be disbursed while in Pangsha Tk 9.32 crore, in Baliakandi Tk 3.62 crore and in Goalondo Tk 1.70 crore. The bank, meanwhile, disbursed Tk 1.52 crore loan among the small and marginal farmers of the district and realised Tk 11.33 crore outstanding loan from the borrowers.

Rape incidents on rise

SYLHET, Sept 27: Incidents of rape and woman repression in Sylhet division is increasing in an alarming proportion, reports UNB. Police said about 89 rape cases in the division were filed against 279 people of which only 79 were arrested during last eight months. Allegations were brought against 139 people in 48 cases of which investigations on 42 complaints are progressing fast. Nine cases have so far been proved false after examining the witnesses and records, the sources added. A total of 122 cases on woman repression were filed with the court during the same period. Of the total rape cases, 46 were filed with the police in Sylhet, 18 in Moulvibazar, 14 in Habiganj and 11 in Sunamganj districts. The local people alleged that the victims are not getting proper justice due to undue political pressure on police.

Phensidyl smuggler gets 7-yr RI

JESSORE, Sept 27: A court here on Tuesday convicted a man and sentenced him to seven years rigorous imprisonment (RI) on charge of smuggling phensidyl, reports UNB. The convicted, identified as Nurul Islam, son of Izzat Ali of Chotoaucha village in Sharsha thana, was also fined Tk 5,000. In default, to suffer one year more RI. The prosecution, in brief, was that some 50 bottles of phensidyl syrup were smuggled by Nurul Islam from India on September 16, 1997. Police arrested him from a bus near Benapole land port. Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against him. After examining the records and witnesses, Additional Sessions and Special Tribunal (2) Judge Abu Ahmed Zomader awarded the punishment.



COMILLA: Bakhrabad Gas Women's Association recently distributed relief items among the flood affected people of Daudkandi, Muradnagar and Chandina thanas. Sufia Kamal, Begum Zebunnessa and CBA President Abul Kashem led the relief team.



GAIBANDHA: (L) Acute scarcity of Aman seedlings has been prevailing throughout the flood affected district. A roadside vendor has brought a few seedlings from a distant place for sale. (R) Farmers have to purchase fodder for their cattle at an exorbitant price. In the picture a farmer of Fulchhari thana carrying fodder for his cattle by boat to his home. Floods have caused acute fodder crisis in the district.



— Star photo by Rezaul Hoque

Agri-sector suffers over Tk 104cr loss in Sylhet Division

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Sept 27: The total loss in the agricultural sector caused by repeated floods this year in the Sylhet region has been estimated to be about Taka 104 crore 85 lakh, said an official source. Of the total, Taka 43 crore 23 lakh crop damage was estimated in the district of Habiganj, Taka 24 crore in the district of Sunamganj and Taka 12 crore 27 lakh in Moulvibazar while the loss was Taka 25 crore 35 lakh in Sylhet district. The source informed that, all the 35 thanas in 4 districts of the region had been hit more or less by the floods. The farmers in general have already started cultivation of Aman crops with a view to recouping the huge loss they had already suffered. Most of the farmers are hopeful about the success, though the time is too short for the crop. The official further informed that the government had already sanctioned a total

amount of Taka 83 lakh 30 thousand for the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in the division. In most of the areas, we have started works, he said adding farmers are getting only a week or ten days to work for cultivation of Aman crops as the season is passing fast. Farmers in the region will now cultivate Aman crops on about 95 thousand hectares of land. The expected yield would be about one and half lakh tonnes, the official hoped. In the district of Moulvibazar, crop like Aus, Broadcast Aman, Transplant Aman seed-bed, Aman and vegetables on 4,992 hectares were damaged by the floods. The loss had been estimated to be Taka 12 crore 27 lakh. Under the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme, the government has already sanctioned Taka 9 lakh 99 thousand for the district. The government will provide

assistance in the form of seeds and fertiliser and cash money for cultivating 590 hectares in the district under the programme, the source added. Crops on 10,900 hectares of land in the district of Sunamganj were badly damaged by repeated floods. The total loss was about Taka 24 crore. Under the rehabilitation programme, the government will provide assistance amounting to Taka 7 lakh 31 thousand in the district this season. Aus, Broadcast Aman, T-Aman seed-bed and T-Aman and other crops on a total of 17,322 hectares were damaged in the district of Sylhet this year. The crop damage had been estimated to be worth about Taka 25 crore 35 lakh, the source added. Under the rehabilitation programme, Taka 25 lakh has been earmarked for providing assistance to the farmers in cultivating Aman

crops. Crops in 28,700 hectares of land were damaged by the repeated floods in the district of Habiganj. The total loss was estimated to be worth about Taka 43 crore 23 lakh in the district. The government has allotted Taka 41 lakh for the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme. Seeds, fertilizers and money in cash would be distributed soon among the marginal and poor farmers in the district under this programme. Besides, the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme, the nationalised commercial banks including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank have already started disbursement of agricultural loans among the farmers, said an official. Farmers in the rural areas have already started preparing their crop lands for cultivating Aman crops in full swing.



BRAHMANBARIA: A cultural programme was arranged here recently on the occasion of the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

258 km roads damaged by flood in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Sept 27: Some 258 km roads under Roads and Highway (R&H) department have been damaged by the devastating flood in the district, reports UNB. According to official sources, the affected roads are Habiganj-Baniachang-Azmirigonj road, Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur road, Habiganj-Lakhai road, Dhaka-Sylhet road, Habiganj-Shayestaganj road, Mirpur-Bahubal road, Chunarughat-Shatijhuri-Natunbazar road, Zagadishpur-Shahjibazar-Shayestaganj and Shayestaganj-Kalimnagar road. Of them, 19 km of 21-km Baniachang-Azmirigonj road was completely damaged. Besides, one bridge and one culvert on Habiganj-Baniachang road, two bridges on Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur road, one bridge on Habiganj-Lakhai road, two culverts on Dhaka-Sylhet road and one culvert on Zagadishpur-Shayestaganj road have been damaged by the prolonged flood. The Chief Engineer of R&H estimated the loss at about Tk 30 crore. The amount may increase with complete recession of flood waters, he said.

26 arrested from 4 dists last week

KHULNA, Sept 27: Police in separate drives arrested 26 people and recovered three revolvers and some ammunitions from four districts during the last week, reports UNB. Police arrested a youth named Moniruzzaman alias Monir and recovered a foreign-made revolver and four rounds of bullets from a house at Gobarchaka in the town here on Saturday. In another drive police arrested Sohel Mia along with a country-made pipe gun from Mashiali Purbapara in Khan Jahan Ali thana on Friday. Apart from this, police nabbed 14 people on various charges from five thanas of the district on Friday. A message from Gaibandha says: Detective Branch Police arrested three people and recovered 87 bottles of phensidyl from their possession at Tulshighat in the district on Thursday. The arrested were identified as Mozam and his wife Mosammam Bakul and Montu Mia. Another report from Sylhet adds: Police in separate drives arrested two dacoits from Mukhtigaon and Khagamura villages in Chhatak thana on Tuesday. The arrested Salik and Zamir were also wanted in connection with several other criminal cases. In another incident, police also arrested Champak Kumar and sent him to jail hajat on charge of violating a school girl. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rifles rounded up a smuggler named Helaluddin and recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.5 lakh on Tuesday.

Afforestation gains popularity in south-western region

NARAIL, Sept 27: Tree plantation in the south-western districts has gained popularity boosting nursery business in the region, reports UNB. Many people have engaged themselves in the booming business in the districts of Jhenidah, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Khulna, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Satkhira. There are three government-run nurseries in the district. Besides, the number of privately-owned nurseries stands at 200, said an owner here. He said there are about 600 nurseries in Jhenidah and

other good number in Jessore. But the business started first from Khulna and there are about 1,000 nurseries in Phultala area alone. The people in remote villages have also become interested in setting up nurseries. The size of the nurseries range from five to even 10 to 12 acres of land, said the owner. People even invest maximum Tk 10 lakh in the business which, he claimed, indicated the success of the entrepreneurs. A nursery owner who won award in the national level said he started with a capital of only

Tk 5,000 in 1991. His nursery has expanded from three katha to 12 acres and there are now over 20 lakh saplings of various species in his nursery. Of the total land, he bought one acre of land with his earning from the business and the rest two acres have been taken as lease. Some 25 people have been employed and there are saplings of fruit-bearing trees as well as timber and other species besides various flower plants and cactus in his nursery.

Destitutes migrating to town in large numbers after flood

NATORE, Sept 27: The destitute rural people, in search of food and work, have started pouring in the town in large numbers with the recession of flood waters, reports UNB. Sources in the rural areas said a large number of families have virtually turned destitute due to the onslaught of the unprecedented flood. The flood waters prolonged for over two months destroying thatched or mud houses of the rural people and damaging other household belongings. Many people found nothing except the land of their homes after returning from the flood shelters following the recession of the flood waters, said the sources. They have been compelled to migrate to the cities for want of food and shelter in the villages. A number of families have already started begging in the towns to keep their mind and soul together. Official sources said at least 10 lakh people of the district have been affected by the prolonged flood.

Some 146,900 dwelling houses had seriously been affected by the flood while another 16,800 were completely washed away. The livestock officials and villagers put the number of cattle died due to the various flood-related diseases and acute scarcity of fodder at 8,000. Standing Crops on about 32,000 hectares of land have been damaged. Meanwhile, diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in different parts of the district in the post-flood period. Relief materials could not be reached in some remote areas of Chalan beel of the district and the rate of migration of the people to the towns is higher from this area.

MYMENSINGH: Students of different colleges working voluntarily at a saline producing project organised by 'Mukhtir Lokkhey'. Now fund shortage has been hampering production of saline there.

Faces of talents

From Aroop Talukdar
BARISAL, Sept 27: Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees of Barisal Cadet College have secured brilliant results with 13 top places from both Science and Humanities groups this year.

They secured 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th (two), 12th (two), 13th and 17th places in the Science group and 7th and 12th places from the Humanities group. It may be recalled here that the students of this college had secured 28 places, 25 from the Science group and 3 from the Social Science groups in the SSC examination.

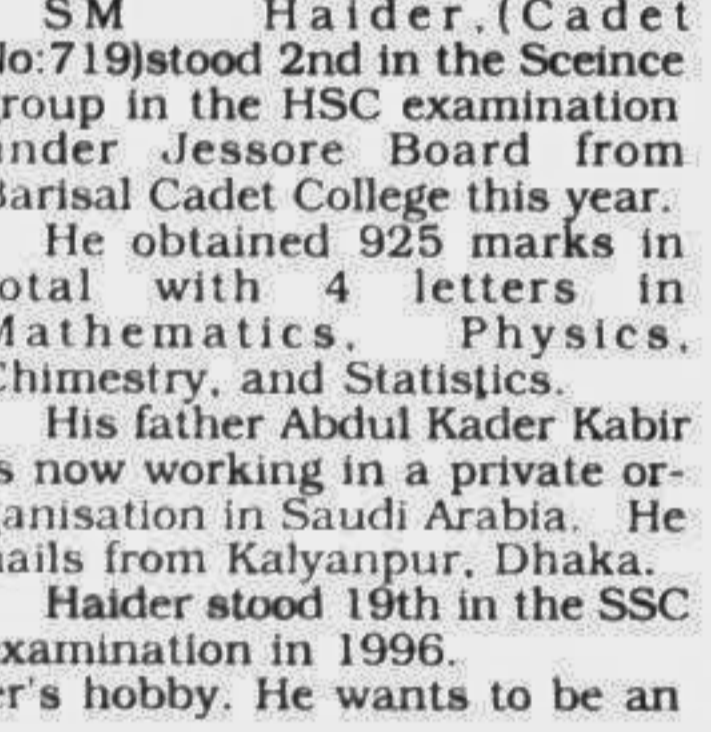
Asad wants to join Army

Abdul Hafiz Al Asad (Cadet No:724) has secured the first place from the Science group in the HSC examinations under Jessore Education Board this year. Asad scored 944 marks in total with four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics. His father Md Hafizur Rahman of DKP Road of Barguna town is a pharmacy owner. Stamp collection is Asad's hobby. He is the 3rd son of his parents. Asad also stood 4th in the Science group in the SSC examination in 1996 from Barisal Cadet College. He wants to join the Bangladesh Army in future.



Haider wants to be an Army officer

SM Haider (Cadet No:719) stood 2nd in the Science group in the HSC examination under Jessore Board from Barisal Cadet College this year. He obtained 925 marks in total with 4 letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Statistics. His father Abdul Kader Kabir is now working in a private organisation in Saudi Arabia. He hails from Kalyanpur, Dhaka. Haider stood 19th in the SSC examination in 1996. Collection of stamps is Haider's hobby. He wants to be an Army officer in future.



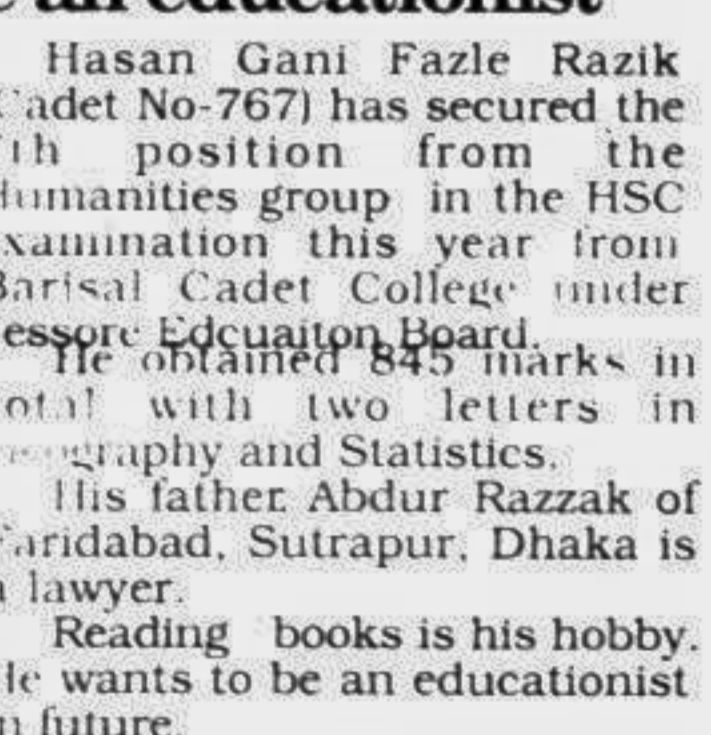
Sahil wants to be computer engineer

Khan Mohammad Farhan Sahil (Cadet No:765) stood 3rd in the Science group from Barisal Cadet College under Jessore Education Board. He obtained 924 marks in total with four letters in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics. In 1996 he stood 12th in the SSC examination in 1996 from this college from Science group in the combined merit list. His father advocate K M Abul Fazal is the vice-president of the Barisal Bar and his mother is Nasima Akhtar Pkji. Sahil is the eldest son of his parent's two children. They are residing at Hazrat Kalu Shah Road in Barisal town. Reading of books is Farhan's hobby. He wants to be a computer engineer in future.



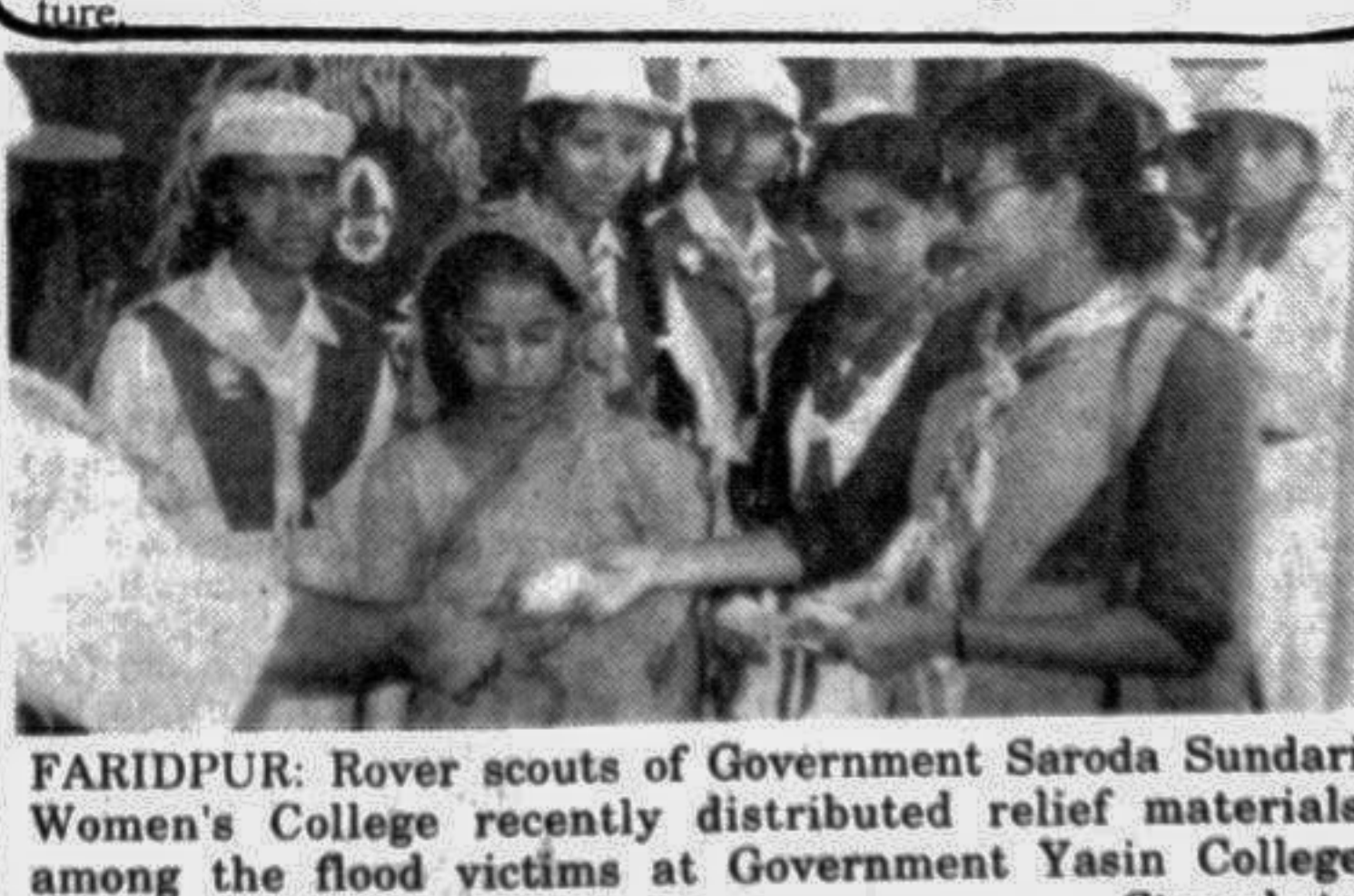
Razik wants to be an educationist

Hasan Gani Fazle Razik (Cadet No:767) has secured the 7th position from the Humanities group in the HSC examination this year from Barisal Cadet College under Jessore Education Board. He obtained 932 marks in total with two letters in Geography and Statistics. His father Abdur Razzak of Faridabad, Sutrapur, Dhaka is a lawyer. Reading books is his hobby. He wants to be an educationist in future. Razik stood 6th from the Humanities group in the SSC examination in 1996.



Pinaki wants to be an Army officer

Pinaki Mandal (Cadet No 714) stood 6th in the HSC examination this year from Barisal Cadet College. He is a very gentle cadet. Pinaki scored 908 in total in the Science group under Jessore Education Board obtaining four letters in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics. His father Manojit Mandal of Fire Brigade Road, Khulna is the Principal of KG College, Jhenidah. Pinaki secured first division with star marks in SSC examination in 1996. Reading books is his hobby. He wants to join Army in future.



FARIDPUR: Rover scouts of Government Saroda Sundari Women's College recently distributed relief materials among the flood victims at Government Yasin College camp.