

Molasses producers active in Natore mill zone

Sugar production may fall short of target

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 29: The recent flood has caused massive pest-attack in sugarcane fields in Natore Sugar Mills zone this season.

According to growers, most of the sugar-cane fields in the mill zone have been attacked with the most harmful pest 'mazra' following the recent flood and stagnant water. 'Mazra' pests have eaten up the tops of suarcane. The growers are selling sugarcane to the molasses producers for averting the possible loss following the 'mazra' attack. Moreover, the growers are more eager to sell their produce to molasses producers for higher price.

According to some growers of the mill zone, they would had to sell their cane to the sugar mill at the rate of Tk 37 per maund officially. But now they were selling sugarcane to the molasses producers at the rate of Tk 45 to Tk 50 per maund before the pest-attack.

An official of Nature Sugar Mills told this correspondent that the producers were making profit by selling crops to the molasses producers. But the mills would suffer very badly due to shortage of cane when the mill starts crushing in late October this season, he added. As a result, the official said, the mills may not recover the crop loan of Tk 15 lakh given to the



NATORE: A sugarcane field in Ektala area in the town is still under flood water.

cane growers of the mills zone.

However, the mills authorities claimed that the production of the mills may fall short of target due to the unabated use of power crushers to produce molasses.

They said about 500 power crushers are being used at the mill zone violating the gov-

ernment ban at the very nose of police administration. At least 200 cases have been filed against the owners of the power crushers so far. But all those went in vain, official sources said adding that a huge amount of molasses loaded in 30 trucks are being transported to other parts of the country everyday from

Natore town. The sources also said that 200 more power crushers would start producing molasses soon hampering sugar production very badly. The mills, however has a target to produce 20,035 metric tons of sugar by crushing 2,35,000 metric tons of sugarcane this season.

— Star photo

News snaps

Tussle forces suspension of relief work
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 29: A tussle between the two groups of BNP workers forced their leaders to suspend relief activities in Sadar thana on Saturday, reports UNB.
Flood victims of Alampur and Dumur villages could not get relief goods in the wake of tussle leaving five people with minor injuries. Villagers said the incident took place when BNP leader Alamgir Alam and others went to Alampur village with rice for distribution. The two groups from the locality raised slogans and counter-slogan. The flood affected people left the place out of fear. Similar incident occurred at Dumur village. The BNP leaders came back to town with relief goods.

BINA undertakes agri-rehabilitation plan
MYMENSINGH, Sept 29: Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) has undertaken agri-rehabilitation programme to overcome the losses of the devastating flood, reports UNB.

The programmes include distribution of seeds, seedlings and fertilisers, setting up of demonstration plots of BINA produced crops which are suitable for cultivation during post-flood period and training programme for the farmers. As part of its programme, BINA has already given 1,000 kg seeds of BINA-shal paddy to the Agriculture Extension Department (AED) to distribute among the growers. The programmes will jointly be implemented by AED, Bangladesh Agricultural University Extension Centre and different NGOs, voluntary organisations and local elite.

Thefts on rise

RAMGATI, (Laxmipur), Sept 29: Thefts are on alarming rise in the thana with the recession of flood water creating panic among the villagers, reports UNB.
According to local people, some 20 burglaries were committed at two villages in the thana on Saturday night. According to witnesses, the thieves entered into the villages Charfalka and Charjangalia at a dead of night and decamped with cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh. Thefts are also being committed in almost every night at several areas of the thana. The flood affected people have urged the authority to take immediate steps to nab the muggers.

Workers meeting of Sechhasebak League

PABNA, Sept 29: A workers meeting of Bangladesh Awami Sechhasebak League of Sadar thana was held last week at Tabunia bazar near here, reports BSS.
Jalaluddin Biswas presided over the meeting. A nine-member committee of Maligachha Union Awami Sechhasebak League was formed in the meeting with Ferdous Selim Bablu as its convenor.

Durga puja in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 29: The greatest religious festival of the Hindu community, 'Durga puja' began in a befitting manner in the district from Sunday, reports BSS.
According to Deputy Commissioner's office sources, a total of 170 puja mandaps have been set up in 13 thanas of the district. Hindu Religion Welfare Trust has allocated Tk 47,000 for the puja. The district administration has taken necessary preparations to maintain law and order in and around the mandaps during the puja festival.

Widow dies by snake-bite

NETRAKONA, Sept 29: A widow died by snake-bite at her house at Babannaha, a flood-affected village, in Netrakona sadar thana on September 17, reports BSS.
A report reaching here said, the victim, Madina Begum, 50, wife of late Jabar Al of the village, died within half-an-hour after she was bitten by a poisonous snake at her bedroom.

Man killed in road accident

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 29: One Qudus, 40, of Rampura village in Hossainpur thana in Kishoreganj was killed in a road accident near Khilpara Chowrasta on Mymensingh-Bhairab highway in Kishoreganj sadar thana on September 23, reports BSS.
According to police sources, the accident occurred when the victim was riding a bicycle on the road. He was ran over by a Dhaka-bound bus. He died on the spot. Police arrested the driver of the bus, Muhammad Alauddin.

Massive 'Aus' farming programme

JHENIDAH, Sept 29: About 21,400 hectares were brought under 'Aus' cultivation in six thanas of the district this year, reports BSS.
The thanas are Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Maheshpur, Shalakupur, Harinakundo and Jhenidah sadar. An official source said that of the total cultivation 15,900 hectares were brought under 'Upshi' variety of 'Aus' and the rest 5,500 hectares under local varieties. The Agriculture Extension Department set up different demonstration plots to acquaint the farmers with the modern methods of cultivation of 'Aus'.

Judicial confce in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Sept 29: A judicial conference was held in Satkhira Judge Court conference room here on Saturday, reports BSS.
The conference was presided over by the District and Sessions Judge, MA Shahidur Rahman. Among others, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira, Additional District and Sessions Judge, sub-judges, assistant judges, superintendent of police, Commanding Officer (CO) of 21 Rifles Battalion of BDR, additional district magistrate, Public Prosecutor (PP), government pleader (GP) and president of Satkhira Bar Council addressed the conference. The conference discussed ways and means for disposal of cases as quickly as possible.

2 killed in Gopalganj road accident

GOPALGANJ, Sept 29: An old man and a minor boy were crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on Takerhat-Gopalganj road at Sayani Nizra near the town on Saturday, reports UNB.
According to witnesses, Sajal Dhali, 5, and Panchali Podder, 70, died on the spot when the driver of the Gopalganj-bound bus from Jessore lost its control. The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. Police seized the bus and a case was filed in this connection.

Diabetic centre opens

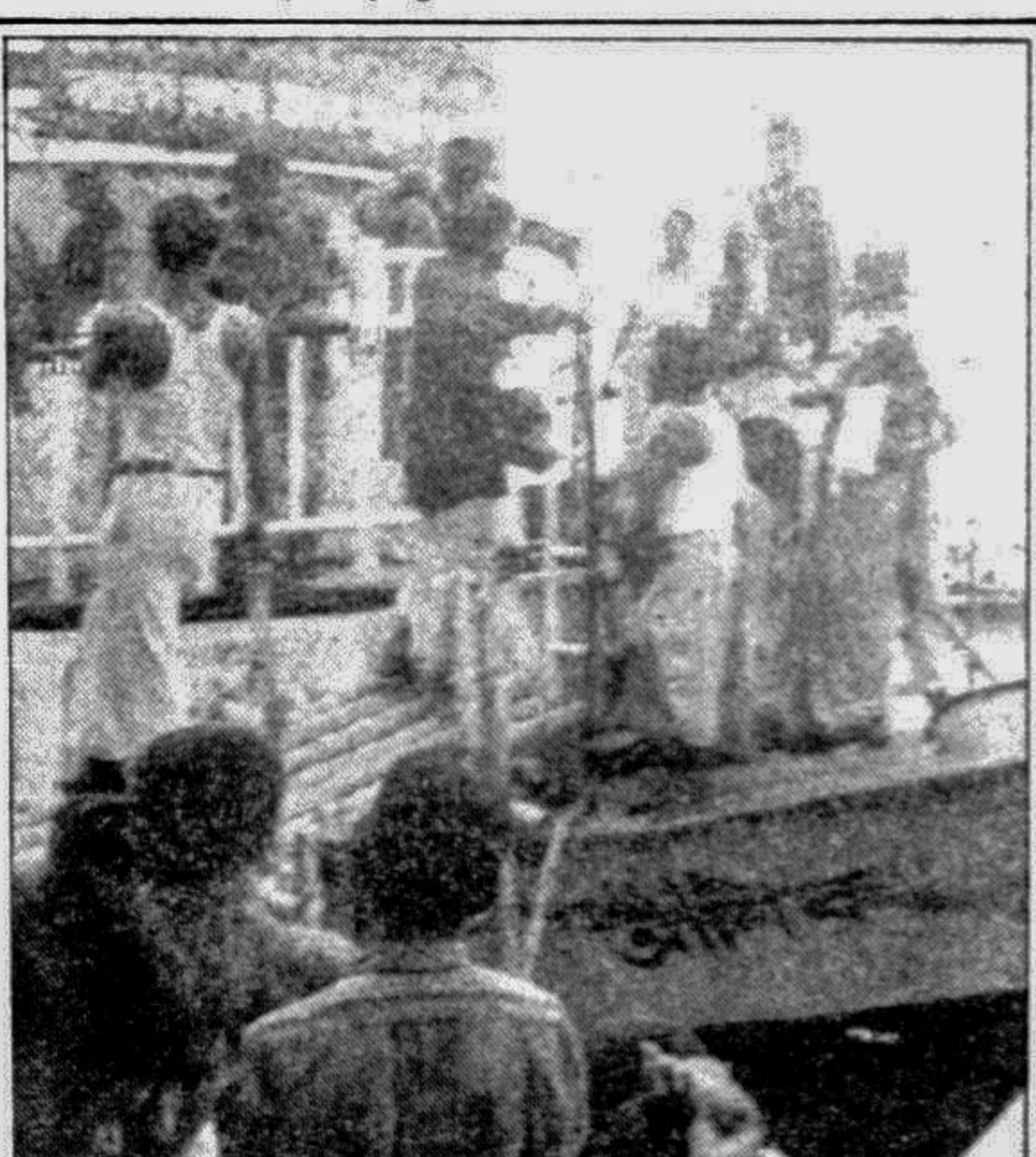
CHUADANGA, Sept 29: A diabetic centre has been opened by the Bangladesh Diabetic Society, Chuadanga chapter at Chuadanga Red Crescent Eye Hospital premises recently, reports BSS.
The diabetic centre styled 'Firoza Bari Memorial Diabetic Centre' was inaugurated by Bashira Mannan, Vice-Chairperson, Chuadanga Chapter of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society at a function held at the eye hospital premises. Firoza Bari was a social worker of Chuadanga town.



NOAKHALI: Local villagers recently worked round-the-clock to repair the dam of Kaluai Multipurpose Rupali Irrigation project which was affected by flood. The project covers 300 acres of land at village Kaluai in Number 2 Nadona union of Begumganj thana.

Problems grip Sylhet MC College

SYLHET, Sept 29: Government MC College, the largest educational institution in the division, is beset with many problems hampering the academic life of the students, reports UNB.
Officials said inadequate number of teachers have been hampering the academic activities in the college for long. Particularly the masters' courses, introduced several years ago, are being hampered badly.
Of the total 128 post for teachers, 39 have been lying vacant. The post of a number of employees are also lying vacant.
The students have also been facing difficulties in absence of students' union of the college for the last seven years.
The condition of the students' hostel, built in the British period, is deplorable. It may collapse any time. But the authorities concerned have not taken any measure to repair it or make alternative arrangement for the students.
A hostel for the female students was constructed several



MUNSHIGANJ: Members of the Lions Club of Dhaka Shurovee Dist 315-A2 led by the club secretary Khaleda Nasrin recently distributed relief materials among the flood victims of Lauhajong thana. The relief team also included a medical team led by Dr Md Naimul Hakim Khan who treated 500 people. No medical team reached there before them.

Narsingdi dist incurs a loss of Tk 65cr by flood

NARSINGDI, Sept 29: The district incurred a loss of Tk 65 crore as a huge quantity of crops, cattle-head and different structures were damaged by the recent flood, reports UNB.
According to the district relief office, six thanas including two pourashavas have been affected by the devastating flood.
A total of 8.18 lakh people of 1.61 lakh families at 821 villages were affected by the prolonged flood.
Standing crops on 30,740 hectares of land have been damaged completely while 3,155 hectares partly.
Moreover, 1,266-km kutcha roads, 144-km pucca roads, 80 embankments were totally damaged.
Twenty-two educational institutions were affected completely while 479 partly, 22 bridges and culverts totally and 191 partly. Besides, a large number of mosques, temples, mandirs were affected.
Some 1,111 cattle and 13,011 poultry birds perished while a huge number of fish and fish fries of 4,203 ponds were washed away by the gushing waters.
Meanwhile, the government made an allocation of Tk 6.81 lakh for the post-flood rehabilitation of the farmers.
Of the allocation, Tk 1.99-lakh has been sanctioned for transplanted 'Aman' cultivation and Tk 4.82 lakh for 'Rabi' crop cultivation, AED sources said.

A report from Habiganj says: Bangladesh Krishi Bank will disburse Tk 29 crore loan among the farmers of the district under its post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme.
The loan will be disbursed through 18 branches of the bank across the district, bank sources said.
The bank authorities held a review meeting of the branch managers and field workers last week to make the programme a success.
The authorities have asked the branch officials of the bank to identify the farmers affected by the recent devastating flood.
They said attention should be given so that the affected farmers could get the loan easily.
Another report from Bogra adds: Four commercial banks have taken up a programme of disbursing agricultural loan of about Tk 32 crore in Bogra region.
The banks are Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.
The banks have already started disbursing the loan

among the farmers for the cultivation of 'Aman' and 'Rabi' crops.
Farmers of 165 unions in the region will get the loan through 99 branches of these banks, said the official source.
The Sonali Bank will disburse Tk 5.61 crore in 34 unions, Janata Bank Tk 6.26 crore in 13 unions, Agrani Bank Tk 95 lakh in 18 unions and RAKUB Tk 18.92 crore in 100 unions.

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Netrakona CPB's project for preparing ORS

NETRAKONA, Sept 29: The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Netrakona district unit has taken up a project for preparing of oral saline (ORS) for the diarrhoea-affected people of the district, reports BSS.

The work on the project was inaugurated in Mohua auditorium here on September 19.

Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Ali Akber Hussain attended the inaugural function as chief guest and special guest respectively. President of Netrakona district communist party Shah Abdul Motalib presided over the function which was addressed, among others, by General Secretary of Netrakona district CPB Nolini Sarker and convenor of the oral saline implementation committee Kohinor Begum.

Under the programme, a total of one lakh packets of oral saline would be prepared and these packets would be distributed among the diarrhoea-affected people at free of cost, district communist party sources said.

Embankments at Habiganj badly damaged

HABIGANJ, Sept 29: Some 64 km of the embankments in the district have been damaged due to devastating floods, reports UNB.
Water Development Board here estimated the extent of damage at Tk 512.80 lakh.
Of the total, 10 km embankment of Gungiaichary, nine km of Makalkandi and 0.775 km of Kairdala haor protection embankment were damaged seriously.
The local people urged the authorities concerned to reconstruct the affected embankments before the Boro paddy season.

School teacher killed by miscreants

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 29: A school teacher was killed by unknown miscreants at a village in Beanibazar thana on Saturday afternoon.
Bimal Kumar Sikder, 45, Assistant Headmaster of Kurarbar High School was returning to the house of his lodging master when he came under a sudden attack of unknown miscreants at about 11 pm of Thursday. Immediately, he was rushed to Sylhet MAG Omani Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state. Since then he remained unconscious. He died on Friday afternoon.
Sikder hails from Rungati of Swarpkathi thana in Pirojpur district. A case has been registered with the Beanibazar thana. The cause of the attack could not be ascertained till now.

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Faces of talents

From Delwar Kabir
JHENIDAH, Sept 29: The cadets of Jhenidah Cadet College has secured brilliant results in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held under Jessore Education Board this year.

Rokan wants to join Army
Seikh Mohammad Rokanuzzaman of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 4th in the combined merit list in Jessore Board securing 922 marks this year. Rokan desires to serve the nation by joining Army as an engineer.
His hobby is stamp collection and reading books. Rokan's father Seikh Mohammad Garmuzzaman is a businessman at Narayanganj.

Reza wants to be an Army officer
Cadet Mohammad Rezaul Karim has secured the 6th position in the Humanities group scoring 448 marks from Jessore Board this year.
Reza's father Moslemuddin is a Naval officer. Reza usually reads for eight hours a day. He wants to join the Army.

Partha wants to be an engineer
Cadet Partha Halder of Jhenidah stood 10th in the combined merit list securing 899 marks in the HSC examination from Jessore Board, this year.
Partha's hobby is reading books, drawing and listening to songs. His father Ratul Krishna Halder is an inspector in the department of Anti-Corruption Bureau. Partha is the third child out of four of his parents. He wants to become an engineer.

Bakhtiar wants to join Air Force
Seikh Bakhtiar Hossain of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 11th in the combined merit list in HSC examination from Jessore Board this year. He secured 894 marks. Bakhtiar usually reads for eight hours a day. His hobby is gardening. His father Mosharraf Hossain is a businessman and his mother Garmuzzaman is a teacher at Nowpara High School in Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at Bheramara. He wants to become a Naval officer.

Mahfuz wants to join Navy
Md Mahfuzur Rahman of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 15th (jointly) securing 888 marks in the HSC examination from Jessore Board this year. Mahfuz usually reads for eight hours daily. His father Khairuddin serves in Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) at Bheramara. He wants to become a Naval officer.

Ryad wants to become an Army officer
Ahmed Ryad Hasan of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 15th jointly securing 888 numbers in the HSC examination from Jessore Board this year. Ryad used to read for eight hours daily. His father ZA Sabur is the factory manager of Dawanganj Sugar Mills in Jamalpur. Ryad's hobby is reading books and listening to songs. He wants to join the Army.

Siddiqui wants to be an Army officer
Fazlul Hasan Siddiqui of Jhenidah Cadet College stood 18th in the combined merit list in HSC examination securing 880 marks from Jessore Board this year. Siddiqui usually reads for eight hours daily. His father Mokter Ali Gazi is the Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways (R&H) Department at Jhenidah. Siddiqui wants to join the Army.

Barkat wants to join Army
Abu Saleh Shah Mohammad Barkatullah stood 20th in the combined merit list scoring 877 marks in the HSC examination from Jessore Board this year. Barkat read for eight hours daily. His hobby is reading books and enjoying songs. Barkat's father Hafizur Rahman is a businessman at Khulna. He wants to join the Army.

Anny wants to study English literature
Our Staff Correspondent of Sylhet says: Shamsunnahar Khanam Anny who stood 10th among girls in the Humanities group of HSC examination in Comilla Board this year wishes to study English literature.
Anny got a total marks of 711. She studied for 3 to 4 hours a day before the examination. Anny is satisfied with her result. Daughter of an eminent businessman Zahid Khan and Mumtaj Begum of village Kayesthagram in Golapganj thana, Anny is grateful to her parents and teachers for the brilliant result.
Hazrat Muhammad (SM) is her most favourite personality. She passes her leisure by enjoying songs. Humayun Ahmed is her favourite writer. She is against student politics. Anny wishes to study English literature.

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