

News snaps

Role of journalists lauded
 KHARACHHARI, Sept 30: Chairman of Khagrachhari Local Government Council Samiro Dewan has lauded the role of the journalists for creating a congenial environment to restore peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.
 He urged all to contribute to the peace process and implement the development projects in the region. Samiro was speaking while inaugurating the newly constructed Ramgarh Press Club building on Tuesday. Calling upon the newsmen to play constructive role by giving objective information for the welfare of the hill people, the tribal leader said the journalists are the friends of the hapless people. Press Club president Subodh Bikash Tripathy also spoke at the function attended by elite of the town and a number of officials.

Agri-loan for farmers
 FENI, Sept 30: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has undertaken a scheme to disburse Tk 20.02 crore loan to the farmers of the district under the post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.
 The loan will be disbursed among the farmers of Sadar Parshuram, Chhagalnaiya, Dhaganbhuiyan, and Sonagazi thanas through 15 branches of the bank. It may be mentioned here that, Krishi Bank disbursed Tk 15 crore loan among 10,918 farmers of the district in the last fiscal year and realised the outstanding amount of Tk 13.29 crore from them during the same period. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Ministry has sanctioned Tk 10 lakh for the rehabilitation of the flood-hit people here. Directorate of Agriculture Extension sources said, the loan will be given to the poor and marginal growers on simple terms for buying agricultural inputs including fertiliser and seeds.

Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh looted
 FENI, Sept 30: Dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh in two separate incidents in the district, police said, reports UNB.
 Police and witnesses said a gang of dacoits entered into the house of Nani Gopal of village Kagirbugh in Sadar thana on Sunday, beat up inmates of the house and decamped with cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh. Another gang of dacoits entered into 'Mortaza Monzil' in Chhagalnaiya thana on the night of September 19 and looted valuables worth about Tk 2 lakh at the gun point.

3 teens commit suicide
 SATKHIRA, Sept 30: Three teenagers allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in Sadar thana here on Monday, reports UNB.
 Police said, Abdul Gaffar, 17, son of Ahmed on Baikari village allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide as he failed to come out successful in this year's HSC examination. In another incident Lalita, 15, daughter of Pagal Chandra of Benana village, allegedly committed suicide as her poor father failed to buy a new cloth for her on the occasion of Durga Puja. Another teenager Jamila Khatun, 17, daughter of Hazrat Ali of Khanpur village, allegedly took poison following a quarrel with her mother.

2 killed in 2 road accidents
 RAJSHAHI, Sept 30: Two people were killed in two separate accidents in Paba thana of the district on Tuesday, reports APB.
 Police said van-puller Jaman Ali, 35, died instantaneously at Madanhati village after a bus hit his three-wheeler on the Naogaon-Rajshahi highway at around noon. An unidentified bicycle rider, who was also injured in the incident, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. In another mishap, a pedestrian, Khalil, 65, was run over by a minibus at Alimganj on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj road at about 9 am.

Durga Puja in Moulvibazar
 MOULVIBAZAR, Sept 30: Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community began here on Sunday, reports BSS.
 The Moulvibazar Zila Puja Udyapan Parishad has appealed to the organisers of all the Puja pandals of the district to curtail the celebration costs and donate the money to the flood victims of the country. A total of 409 puja pandals have been set up in six thanas of Moulvibazar district to celebrate the Durga Puja. Of these pandals 80 pandals in Baralekha thana, 89 in Kulara thana, 38 in Rajnagar thana, 33 in Sadar thana, 115 in Srimgongal thana and 54 in Kamalganj thana. The festival will end with the immersion of the image of Durga. It will be followed by a colourful procession.

Plan to give new telephone connections
 CHUADANGA, Sept 30: The T and T Board has given 56 new telephone connections in Chuadanga town during the last one month, reports BSS.
 According to an official source the board has taken up a plan to give 300 new telephone connections in Chuadanga town within the next three months. A spokesman of the local T and T Board told that at present there are 900 telephone connections in Chuadanga town and with new 300 connections the total number of telephone connections in Chuadanga town will stand at 1200.

Durga puja in Netrakona
 NETRAKONA, Sept 30: Durga Puja, the five-day long greatest religious festival of the Hindu community began here on Sunday with due religious fervour and solemnity, reports BSS.
 A total of 200 puja mandaps have been erected in 10 thanas of Netrakona district. The Durga Puja festival is being celebrated here in a simple manner this year in view of the devastating flood. The money saved following curtailment of the budget of the puja festival will be distributed among the flood-hit people of the district said Nirmol Kumar Das, General Secretary of Netrakona District Puja Udyapan Parishad.

Hilsha price down
 SHARIATPUR, Sept 30: Prices of Hilsha have fallen in the local markets following abundant supply over the last few days, reports APB.
 Consumers said, a big size Hilsha fish is being sold at Tk 50 to 60 compared Tk 120 to Tk 140 a couple of weeks ago. About 50 to 60 maunds of Hilsha fish are sold here a day now, in contrast to an average sale of 100 to 120 maunds a day just seven days ago. In the absence of storage facilities, huge quantity of Hilsha are getting rotten every day.

Massive agri-rehabilitation plan
 FARIDPUR, Sept 30: A massive agricultural rehabilitation programme has been taken up in the district to replenish the loss of 'aus' and 'aman' crops due to flood, reports BSS.
 According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) source, transplanted 'aman' seedlings raised on four acres of land will be distributed free of cost among 125 small farmers of the district. The seedlings will be transplanted in 60 acres of land with a production target of 900 maunds of paddy. According to the source Taka one lakh in cash will be distributed among 1000 farmers to cultivate 'mash kala'. Each farmer will get four kilograms of 'mash kala' seed free of cost.

Tk 35 cr agri-loan for Habiganj farmers
 HABIGANJ, Sept 30: About taka thirty-five crore will be disbursed as agriculture loan among the farmers of Habiganj district under post-flood rehabilitation programme of the government, reports BSS.
 According to an official source, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) will disburse Taka 29 crore, Sonali Bank Taka 3.39 crore, Janata Bank Taka 2.13 crore and Agrani Bank Taka 33 lakh.
 Meanwhile, a conference of the branch managers and field staff of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Habiganj region was held recently at the local regional office of the BKB to discuss the disbursement process of the agriculture loan. The conference was presided over by Mushtaq Ahmed, regional manager, BKB, Habiganj Zone. Eighteen Branch managers and 55 field staff of BKB Habiganj region participated in the conference.

Relief goods distributed
 TANGAIL, Sept 30: The students of playgroup, nursery and class five of Mount Hergmin Preparatory School and Mount Hergmin Coaching Home have distributed relief materials among the flood affected people of Moiz Doi village in Mirjapur thana of Tangail district recently, reports BSS.
 According to an official source, they distributed rice, chira, murt and bread among the flood victims. The distribution programme was supervised by the director of the school and the coaching home Roksana Mozumdar and the deputy director of the coaching home Dewan Abul Hasham.

Tk 25 lakh allocated for Madaripur farmers
 MADARIPUR, Sept 30: The government has taken up an extensive post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme on the basis of primary survey in four thanas of the district, reports BSS.
 Under the first phase of the programme the government has allocated a total of Taka 25 lakh for the small and marginal farmers of sadar, Kalkini, Rajoir and Shibchar thanas. The government has taken up the programme to help the small and marginal farmers for cultivation of 'ropa aman' and 'boro' paddy, wheat, soyabain, pulses and seasonal crops. Under the programme the affected farmers will be provided with chemical fertiliser and cash money for purchasing seeds and seedlings. Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said.

Tk 42.50 lakh agri-rehabilitation programme in Sherpur dist

SHERPUR, Sept 30: Implementation of the agricultural rehabilitation work, undertaken in the aftermath of flood, has been started in the district with an involvement of Tk 42.50 lakh, reports UNB.
 Official sources said, under the programme, the affected farmers will be provided with cash amount, seeds and fertilisers to boost production.
 With this view, some 860 acres of land have already been brought under the preliminary stage of the programme and seeds of 'Aman' paddy, pulse and other 'Rabi' crops were distributed accordingly.
 According to the AED, this year's production of paddy will

fall short of target by 1.278 metric tons, but seeds of high yielding variety was sold to recover the loss.
 Besides, the production target for next 'Rabi' season has been fixed at 42,000 mts more to overcome the food deficit.
 A local agriculture expert informed that more lands will be brought under HYV crops, pulse and wheat cultivation and diversified crop cultivation programme.
 Moreover, the growers will be motivated to use compost fertilisers on their lands for yielding maximum production.
 A report from Sunamganj says: A total of 4,53,659 people of 83 unions here have been affected by the recent devastating flood.
 Local administration sources said, some 6044 dwelling houses have so far been damaged completely and 30,289 partially.
 Standing crops on 4,256 hectares of land damaged completely and crops on 9,499 hectares damaged partially.
 Forty kms road damaged completely and 1,319-km partially, 19-km dam damaged completely and 294-km damaged partially.
 Besides, some 195 bridges-culverts, 699 educational institutions, 146 mosques and temples have been affected by the prolonged flood in the district.



GOPALGANJ: Dilapidated Dhaka-Khulna highway near Gopalganj Natun Bazar. Flood has damaged the highway very badly. The highway is now unfit for use. — Star photo

6,970 ponds badly affected by floods in Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood
 The amount of damage assessed in this district are 1524 ponds, 82.8 metric tons of fish and 18.60 lakhs of fries in Kurigram, 1185 ponds, 308 metric tons of fish and 25 lakhs of fries in Natore district, 759 ponds, 83.8 metric tons of fish and 22.10 lakhs of fry in pabna, 823 ponds and dighis, 63 metric tons of fish and 30 lakhs of fries in Thakurgaon district, 477 ponds, 249.9 metric ton of fish and 90.50 lakhs of fries in Bogra, 306 ponds, 109 metric tons of fish and 7.20 lakhs of fries in Naogaon and 758 ponds, 85.8 metric tons of fish and 23.10 lakhs of fries in Gaibandha district.
 A local officer of the Directorate of Fisheries requesting anonymity said that some owners of the ponds have been frustrated losing every thing

they had invested for cultivation of fish in their ponds. This has adversely affected cultivation of fish in these areas in future. He suggested immediate credit and rehabilitation programmes.
 He observed that the open water reservoirs had been immensely enriched with huge amount of fish and fries which have been washed away by flood water.
 Increasing supply of fish in the market has already lowered the market price of some common kind of fish in the districts.
 Meanwhile, some unscrupulous fishermen are openly fishing fries from open water reservoirs. Stern actions against fishing fries have been suggested.

Trial of 12-murder case progressing at snail's pace in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
 PABNA, Sept 30: The trial of the most sensational 12-murder case of Pabna district has been progressing very slowly.
 Out of the total 40 prosecution witnesses, only nine have been examined till the other day.
 Besides, it is further learnt, out of a total of 38 charged/accused persons, one died in the jail hazard and another has also reportedly died while remaining absconding. Moreover, out of 38 accused persons, police, at different times, arrested 30. Out of them 25 have been enlarged on bail by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. The remaining five are still in jail hazard and seven are yet to be arrested as they are allegedly absconding throughout this long period.
 The history of this case, as it is found in the FIR says that on August 28, 1988 a total of 13 persons took shelter in the house of Majbar Rahman of village Khatbari in Chatmohar thana of Pabna district as their houses were inundated due to the severe flood of 1988. At about 10 on the same night a

group of about 40 miscreants, armed with guns, Chinese axe and other deadly weapons attacked suddenly the house of Mujbar Rahman, made the worst ever killing incident in Pabna district.
 Twelve murders were committed in the house on the fateful night. At that time it was raining cats and dogs. The murdered victims were Abdus Sobhan, 30, Jayenuddin alias Harai, 35, Ahmed Ali, 38, Bishu Pramanik, 20, Alauddin alias Alhaj, 21, Saiful Islam, 30, Tozammel, 25, Hotal Pramanik, 45, Omar Ali, 40, Aisar Ali, 30, Md Moziruddin, 25, and Abdul Majid, 45. Another named Akmal Hossain, 20, was also seriously injured during the massacre but he was luckily saved.
 On getting the information of the massacre, the then ASP (circle), Ishurdi, rushed to the spot, took up a case and sent all the 12 bodies to Pabna General Hospital for post-mortem. Complainant of the case is Abdul Jabbar. Later SP Pabna, and the DIG of Pabna Rajshahi Range, also visited the place of occurrence.
 After conducting necessary investigations, the ASP, Ishurdi circle, Noor Mohammad Mollah submitted a chargesheet against 29 accused persons. But the complainant raised an objection against the charge-sheet through a Narazi petition. The court rejected the charge-sheet and ordered for a fresh investigation. Nurul Huda, Officer-in-Charge, Chatmohar Police Station took up the investigation and submitted a fresh chargesheet against 38 accused persons. This investigation took a long time. Then it was transferred to the Sessions Judge, Pabna, for trial. The trial has still been continuing since then.
 After the massacre on the fateful night, the murderers left the house shouting slogans in favour of 'Sarbojaha Party'.
 Meanwhile, taking advantage of the delay, in trial of the case, the criminals have been emboldened which, in turn, caused panic in the villages. The villages known as Suigram, Kohagbari, Pabakhali and Khatbari have been turned again into a 'crime zone'. The two opposing sides in the case are again involved in clashes, riots, looting and arson.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof Mahbubur Rahman, Secretary, Rajshahi University Club handing over a cheque of Taka one lakh to the Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Abdul Khaleque as donation to the university flood relief fund. Pro Vice-Chancellor Syeedur Rahman Khan and other executive members of the club were also present. — Star photo

Faces of talents



CHITTAGONG: Shahariar Md Shahabuddin who stood fourth in the Combined Merit List of Commerce group from Chittagong Education Board is seen with his parents.



BARISAL: Mamun who scored the highest marks in the Commerce group from Jessore Education Board is seen with the Principal of BN Khan Degree College, Uzirpur, M Altaf Hossain. — Star Photo

Shahariar 4th in Commerce group

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Shahariar Md Shahabuddin stood 4th in the Combined Merit List of Commerce group from Chittagong Education Board. He is a student of Chittagong Commerce College and secured 739 marks.
 He is the son of S M Shamsuddin and Parveen Akhtar. He studied regularly and his grandfather, parents, aunt and teachers have encouraged him.

Zahid wants to study BBA

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Sept 30: The Resident Engineer of Power Development Board (PDB) at Bhola died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) on Monday night as a mentally retarded man hit him on his head by a stick at Bhola, the evening on the fateful day.
 Besides, the people of Daulatkhan of Bhola staged an agitation programme in protest of the month long erratic power supply and abnormal electric bills on Monday. In the evening the Resident Engineer, Abdur Rashid went to Danlat Khan from Bhola. After entering into his residence he found human stool and other things in front of the gate. A mad man, Rustam, 30, has done the foul play.
 He abused him and after some mild physical assault he set him free.
 After some time when Rashid was coming down from the upstairs, the mad man suddenly hit him with a stick on his head from behind in the darkness. As a result the unfortunate engineer became senseless and seriously injured. Immediately he was rushed to Bhola sadar Hospital. From there he was rushed to SBMCH in a critical condition.
 Rashid, 37, succumbed to his injuries that night.
 An Unnatural Death (UD) case was filed with Barisal Court-wali P.S. Rustam was arrested by Bhola Police.

Shahadat wants to be teacher

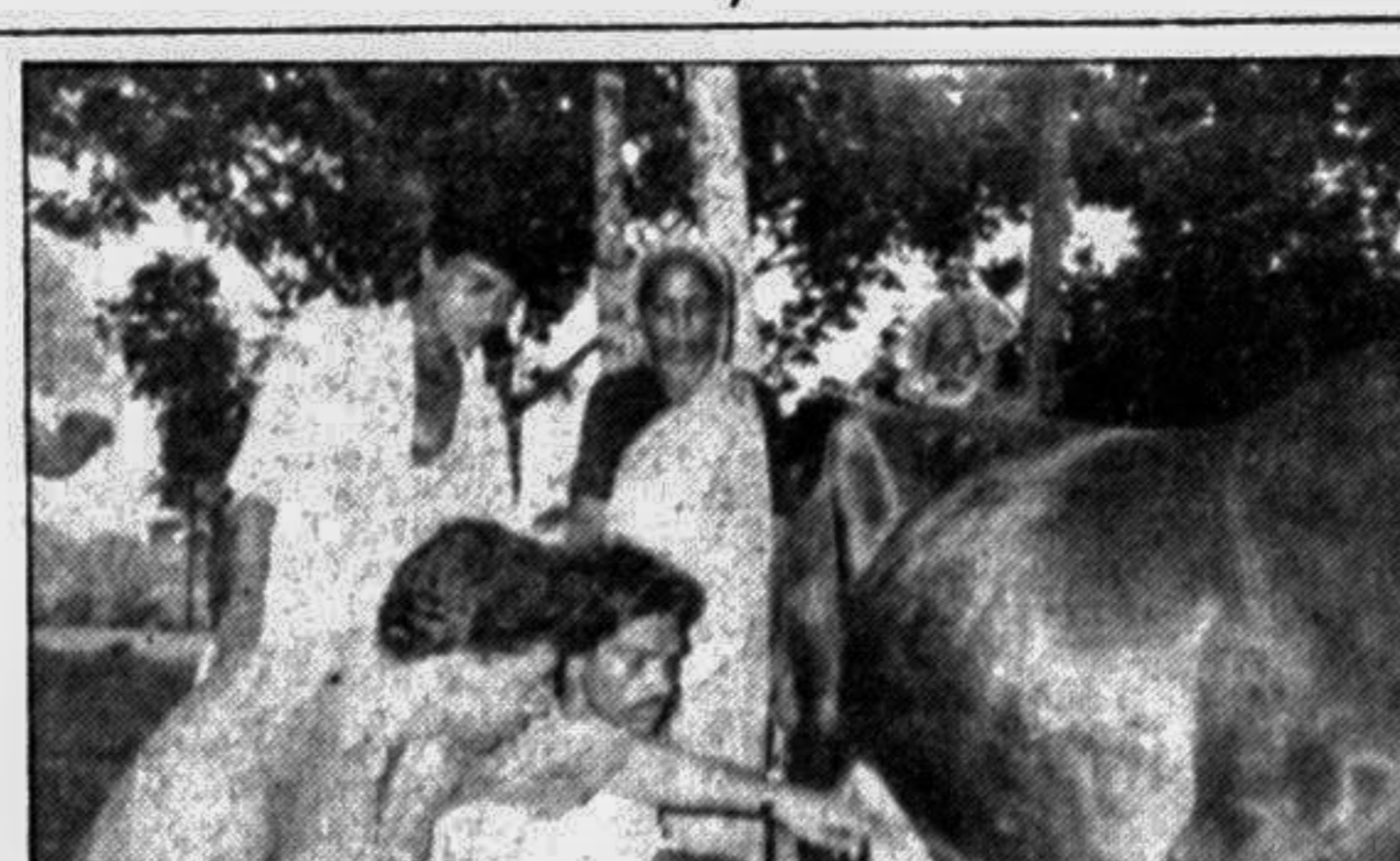
Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports: Shahadat Hussain secured the second position in the Combined Merit List of Commerce group in the HSC examination held under Comilla Board from Brahmanbaria Government College this year.
 He scored 763 marks with letters in two subjects- Book keeping and Short hand.
 Shahadat, son of Muhammad Ismail and Sahara Khatun wants to be a university teacher after completing his MBA study.
 He studied for eight to 10 hours a day and took the help of his elder brother Md Nannu Mia, a teacher and some private tutors.
 Shahadat is the son of a farmer of village Bertola in Sarail thana. He is very happy with his successful result. He said, the result was beyond his expectation.
 Earlier in 1996 he stood 9th in the combined merit list of Humanities group in the SSC examinations under the same board.
 He is in favour of student politics, but he said it must be terrorism free.
 He spends his leisure period in reading books. His favourite writers are Johir Raihan and Samaresh Mojumdar.

Susmita wants to study engineering

Our Staff Correspondent of Khulna says: Susmita Saha of Khulna Government Girls' College has secured the first position among girl students in the Science group and fifth in the Combined Merit List in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination under Jessore Education Board this year. She scored a total of 912 marks with four letters in four subjects. Her father Nirod Baron Saha is the Divisional Manager of MM Ispahant Ltd (Tea division), Khulna. Her mother is Krishna Roy, a teacher of Modern Kindergarten, Khulna. She is very happy with her result. Her hobbies are drawing pictures, recitation, debating and daily diary writing. Her favourite novelist is Samoresh Mojumdar. She wants to study computer engineering.

Rampant smuggling along Jessore-Jhenidah border

JESSORE, Sept 30: Smuggling is rampant along the border areas of Jessore and Jhenidah districts for quite some time, reports UNB.
 Local people said Indian contrabands including saree, lungi, spare parts of motor car and bicycle, sugar, salt, cattle, phensidyl syrup, electronics and cosmetics have flooded the local markets.
 These items are being smuggled into the country in large quantity, said the people living in the bordering areas.
 During a recent visit in the smuggle-prone areas along the border, a team of local journalists found that the Indian goods were being transported in some areas almost openly.
 Innumerable rickshaw vans are engaged in carrying the goods to the local markets freely in absence of check by BDR men.
 Labourers recruited by the smuggling rackets were also carrying goods on head-loads or on bicycles from across the border.
 They claimed that they have to pay tolls regularly to the agents selected by BDR for the smuggled goods.
 These agents even raise makeshift centres at several points for collecting tolls, said the local people.
 They are small fries in the illegal business, said the sources adding that the godfathers always remain out of reach of the law enforcement agencies.



BARISAL: Proshika, a leading NGO has started an emergency medical treatment centre for providing medicare service to cattle at Taltali bazar of Charbaria union in sadar thana. — Star photo