

Faces of talents

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, Oct 4: Seven talented students of Kushtia district have kept their marks and secured places in the merit list in the recently published HSC examination results of Jessore Board.

Sajjad Siddique was placed 16th position in the combined merit list of Science group from Kushtia Government University College securing 883 marks. His Roll number is 510781. He got 4 letters.

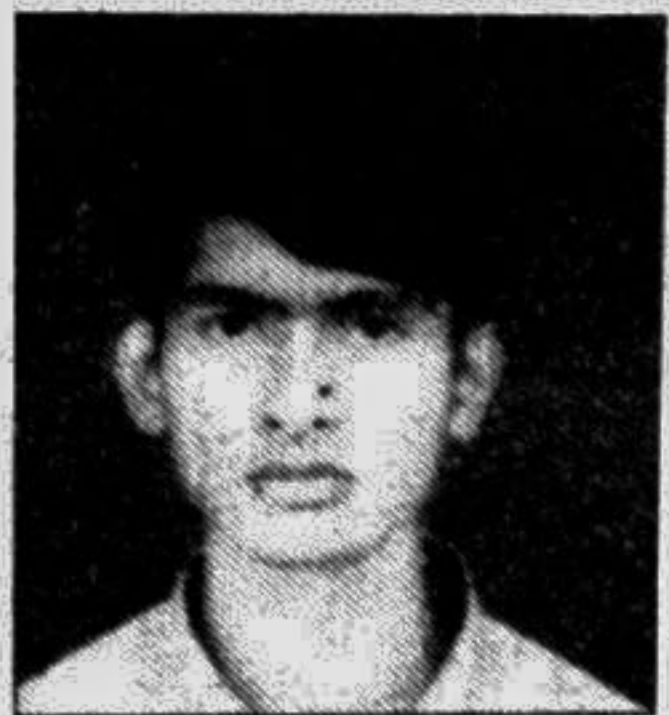
Soheli Salam of Kushtia Government University College was placed 19th in the combined merit list of Science group and secured third place among the girls securing 878 number. Her Roll number is 510749. She got 4 letters. Soheli also secured 3rd position in SSC examination.

It may be mentioned, Soheli is the only daughter of Abdus Salam, Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia. Sahana Huq Ratna of Khoksa Sompur Abu Taleb College was placed 15th in the combined merit list of Humanities group and 6th among the girls securing 827 marks. Her Roll No is 645357. She got 3 letters.

Shamima Akhtar of Kushtia Government University College secured 10th position among the girls scoring 811 marks. Her Roll number is 645548. She got 2 letters. Babita Biswas of Khoksa College secured 6th position among girls in the commerce group securing 746 marks. Her Roll number is 713107. She got one letter. Rima Parveen of Kushtia Government University College secured 7th position among the girls in the commerce group scoring 739 marks. She got one letter.

Palash wants to study Law

Our Comilla Correspondent reports: Sharif Mohammad Ziaur Rahman (Palash) has secured the fifth place in the Humanities Group of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations from Comilla Education Board this year. He scored 816 marks with letters in three subjects. He was a student of Comilla Victoria College. In the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination he secured 13th place from the same board. In future he wants to study law. His father Md Khalilur Rahman is the Assistant Manager of Bakhrabad Gas Ltd. Their village home is in Katchua thana of Chandpur district.



News snaps

2 electrocuted

MADARIPUR, Oct 4: Two persons were electrocuted and a school student died by snakebite here recently in sadar thana of the district, reports BSS.

Abul Kalam Azad Kalu, 28, of village Bhaerchar Katla, in sadar thana, was electrocuted recently while he was connecting a disconnected electric wire in his residence. One Likhon, 22, was electrocuted at village Harikumaria in sadar thana when he came in touch with a live electric wire lying in the ground. Police said, unnatural death cases were lodged with sadar thana in this connection. A school student died by snake-bite at Khowazpur village in sadar thana of the district. The victim was identified as Babul Matbar, 13.

Youth held with revolver

GAIBANDHA, Oct 4: Police on Monday recovered a revolver and arrested a young man in this connection, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, Detective Branch of Police arrested Dulu, son of Asheq Ali of Magura village, with the hand-made revolver from in front of a private eye hospital here. A case was filed with the local police.

Confce of Sathkha poets

SATKHIRA, Oct 4: A conference of local poets was held on Saturday in the public library auditorium here, reports BSS.

About one hundred poets participated in the conference presided over by Mainul Haq Khan Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira. Shahidur Rahman and Superintendent of Police Mosharrar Hossain attended the conference as special guests. The conference was followed by recitations of self-composed poems.

Fodder scarcity in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Oct 4: Acute scarcity of fodder is prevailing in the district as the grasses and straws were damaged extensively by the prolonged flood, reports UNB.

Due to the scarcity, price of fodder has shot up abnormally in the local markets. At present, a bunch of straw is being sold between Tk 100 and Tk 150 as against Tk 25 while a bag of rice husk is being sold between Tk 200 and Tk 250 as against Tk 100 before the flood. Meanwhile, various cattle diseases are spreading fast in the district with the recession of flood waters. The disappointed farmers, under a compelling situation, are selling their cattle-head at throw away prices. They urged the authorities concerned to ensure supply of adequate fodder and medicine to save their domestic animals from malnutrition.

Rice distribution under VGF cards starts

NOAKHALI, Oct 4: Rice distribution under VGF cards has begun among the flood affected people of six thanas of the district from the current month as part of post flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.

Each of the 24,600 families of 82 unions will get 16-kg rice in every month. The distribution will continue for two months. Some 3000 families of 10 unions in Chatkhal, 6,300 of 20 unions in Sadar, 7,800 in 26 unions of Begunjan, 2,700 of nine unions in Hatya, 2,700 of nine unions in Companganj and 2,400 of eight unions in Senbagh thanas have so far received the VGF cards. The district relief office sources said, the distribution time limit may be extended further.

Tk 3.51cr for edn projects

BARISAL, Oct 4: The government has sanctioned Tk 3.51 crore for the implementation of nine major education projects in two southern districts in Barisal Education Zone in the current 1998-99 fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts to be covered by this programme include: Barisal and Bhola. According to an official source, the projects to be implemented are the construction of nine non-governmental colleges of the districts. The colleges are: Begun Tofazell Hossain Manik Mia Mahila College, Amrita Lal Dey College, Babugoni Degree College, Alhaj Hazrat Ali College, Banaripara College, Dhamura College, Barthi College, Dularhut Adarsha College and Monpura College.

2 teens die from snake bite

NAOGAON, Oct 4: Two teenagers died from snake bite in Damorhat thana of district, police said, reports UNB.

Family sources said Azimuddin, 12, of Chakhabani village, died on the spot when a snake bit him. He came under attack while collecting fodder for his cow from the nearby flood shelter. In another incident, an unidentified boy, 12, of Isabpur village also met the same fate. He was bitten by the snake while sleeping with his flood-affected family members on a culvert.

College building work completed

BARISAL, Oct 4: Facilities Department completed the construction of five colleges in four thana headquarters of this district at a cost of Tk 1,89,48,821 during the last fiscal year, reports BSS.

Thousands of children are malnourished

BARISAL, Oct 4: Thousands of children have been suffering from various malnutrition-caused diseases in different areas under six thanas of Patuakhali district, reports APB.

As a result, the rate of child mortality has been increasing at an alarming rate in the areas. The children, sources say, have been afflicted with blindness, skin disease, diphtheria, dysentery and peptic ailments of various kinds due to lack of nutrition. Many of these children die due to lack of treatment facilities in the health complexes and hospitals of the district.

Efforts on to mitigate flood victims' sufferings

JAMALPUR, Oct 4: State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharrar urged upon all sections of the people to come forward to help the flood victims side by side government efforts, reports BSS.

This is the century's worst flood havoc which government alone cannot cope with. Government is quite alert of the situation and is taking all steps to mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected people, he said. The State Minister of Land was addressing a meeting of a cross section of the people at Deputy Commissioner's conference room here recently as minister-in-charge of the district. The meeting was also attended and addressed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Ministry Abul Kalam Azad, Rezaul Karim Hira, MP and Deputy Commissioner, Jamalpur, Md Shahnewaz.



GAIBANDHA: Rahima, a destitute widow of village Thansipur in the sadar thana with an infant in her lap is standing with a blank look in front of her flood ravaged thatched hut. She is quite uncertain of her future. — Star photo by Rezaul Hoque

Crops on 2 lakh hectares of land damaged by floods in S-dists

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Oct 4: With the recession of flood waters from different places in the southern districts, massive damage has been observed, particularly of different types of crops and vegetables.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, Barisal regional office here, crops of various types including vegetables of several thousand crores of taka on 2,01,869 hectares of land have been damaged during the flood in 11 southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakati, Pirojpur, Bhola, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Sariapur.

Standing 'Aman' crops and seedbeds were severely damaged, local sources informed. Besides, Additional Director, AED here said, the agricultural rehabilitation programme has already been started in Babuganj and sadar thana of Barisal district. In other places this programme is going to be started soon.

Official sources said, Tk 1,28,68,320 has been received to implement the agricultural rehabilitation programme in the districts in the first phase while more allocation is yet to be received soon.

District-wise allocation fixed under this programme is for Barisal Tk 9,54,000, Patuakhali Tk 5,56,000, Barguna Tk 5,90,000, Pirojpur Tk 5,10,000, Bhola Tk 1,47,000, Faridpur Tk 27,35,000, Madaripur Tk 24,90,000, Gopalganj Tk 10,00,000, Rajbari Tk 12,74,000, Jhalakati Tk 3,00,000 and Sariapur Tk 23,12,000.

Meanwhile, Proshika, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) has allocated Tk 66,92,000 as relief for distribution among the flood affected people of 15 thana areas of Barisal, Bhola, Madaripur, Pirojpur, Patuakhali and Barguna districts. Thana-wise allocations are as follows: Mehendiganj Tk 6,50,000, Bhola Tk 1,50,000, Madaripur Tk 10,00,000, Kalkini Tk 10,10,000, Barisal (sadar) Tk 2,00,000, Gourmadi Tk 5,90,000, Uzirpur Tk 4,90,000, Borhanuddin Tk 3,00,000, Agailhara Tk 6,10,000, Babuganj Tk 3,00,000, Damudya Tk 4,00,000, Patuakhali (sadar) Tk 3,80,000, Amtali Tk 2,04,000, Kauhkhali Tk 2,04,000 and Mathbaria Tk 1,54,000.

This allocation will be given in three sectors such as distribution of relief materials, immediate emergency health care and treatment services and treatment of flood affected cattle and poultry birds.

On the other hand, a recent field survey report of 'Novartis' on flood-hit area revealed it is now clear that 'Aman' loss is more than the last projections, that accounted for two million tons of foodgrains production shortage.

The deadline of HYV plantation was mid to end August. Time passed and farmers could not transplant anything in the flood affected areas. 'Aman' lands will most probably be cultivated with vegetables, mustard and wheat once the waters recede hopefully.

Potato farming will face a difficult time this year. As the flood waters linger, it will not be possible for farmers to sow seeds in time. Sowing will be delayed by at least a month to mid-December which means yield loss and pest-attack.

The Department of Agricultural Extension's (DAE) rehabilitation programme in some places has started. Farmers are being given between Tk 400 and

Tk 500 per acre to buy seedlings. However, farmers are using this money for their daily survival.

The survey report also revealed, 'it is feared, if water remains stagnant for more days 10 to 15 per cent of 'Aman' crops in the northern region may be lost.' It is further said, 'besides human lives and crops, livestock has now become another major victim of flood everywhere in the flood affected areas.'

There is a severe crisis of fodder and farmers are using hyacinth as a poor substitute. Severe diarrhoea attacks have also been reported. Massive post-flood agricultural rehabilitation is the crying need of the day. A concerted national effort is needed to put the farming economy back on its firm feet — the survey report added. Different NGOs, private organisations and government officials are still now distributing relief materials among the flood-hit people in the districts.

Besides, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah is also distributing relief goods among the distressed people on many occasions in various flood affected areas of the district of Barisal.

Shaikupa Health Complex ailing

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 4: Shaikupa Thana Health Complex itself has become ill for want of physicians, medicines, sufficient beds for the patients and other facilities.

Now only four physicians including the administrative officer, Thana Health and Family Planning Administrator (THFPA) have been posted here. On duty doctors got heavily loaded with multiple assignments. When contacted THFPA of Shaikupa said that about 300 patients register at the out door everyday.

Three physicians can not give proper services to them for time constraints. Moreover the supply of some drugs were insufficient. Antibiotics and other drugs have been meeting the requirements of the patients in the indoor. Many patients were flooring lying in the veranda of the THC for want of bed in the ward.

THFPA informed that out of total 31 seats, six were given to the department of Family Planning for post operative use. Rest were for the male and female wards. The number of patients was at least 65 to 70 daily.

As a result hospital was compelled to arrange flooring facilities for the patients.



JHENIDAH: Many patients are seen flooring at Shaikupa Thana Health Complex for want of beds. — Star photo

THFPA further informed that they had been getting food supply for only 31 patients daily. He also said there was no pediatric and isolated ward for the patients at Shaikupa THC. For this reason all the patients were accommodated in male and female wards.

When contacted Dr Sardar Badaruddin, Civil Surgeon of Jhenidah admitted the fact and

told that the matter was discussed in monthly coordination meeting and the same matter was also informed to higher authorities of their department. But no initiative was taken to handle the situation properly.

The population of Shaikupa thana is above three lakh and only three doctors have been assigned for the people.

Activities of Pulse Research Centre hampers

PABNA, Oct 4: Research activities of Pulse Research Centre in Iswardi thana here are being hampered due to lack of necessary manpower and equipment, reports UNB.

There are nine posts of Scientific Officers in the centre. Of them, four officers have gone abroad on deputation. These posts including that of the Chief Scientific Officer have been lying vacant for long jeep-

ardising the research activities of the centre.

The Pulse Research Centre playing an important role to meet the demand of the country has so far innovated 22 high yielding varieties.

Nearly 5.2 lakh tons of pulse one-fourth of the total demand, are being produced on about 7.3 lakh hectares of land in the country.

The centre was set up at Joy-

devpur in Gazipur district, but later shifted to Iswardi in 1990.

The research activities of the centre are also being hampered due to bureaucratic tangles, said an official source.

Local people have demanded of the authorities to take measures for posting adequate number of scientific officers at the centre to rejuvenate the research activities.

Scarcity of seedlings hampers T-Aman farming in eastern dists

NARSINGDI, Oct 4: The farmers of the country's eastern districts, including Narsingdi, have started cultivation of transplanted 'Aman' for the third time following the recession of flood waters, reports APB.

Although the season is now almost over, the farmers have begun planting the seedlings after the flood waters damaged in two consecutive times earlier.

But the high price and scarcity of 'Aman' seedlings are hampering efforts of growers in this regard as the supply of seeds by the authorities has proved to be quite inadequate to meet the demand, farmers said.

The well-to-do farmers are collecting seedlings at higher prices, while the poor farmers

are finding it difficult to procure them owing to their exorbitant prices.

The AED sources here said that these was a target for bringing a total of about 1.9 lakh hectares of land under 'T-Aman' cultivation during the current season, with a production target of more than 4 lakh tonnes of rice.

The drive, however, met with initial setback in early July, when most of the seedbeds of 'T-Aman' in the low-lying areas of the district went under flood waters, sources said.

The second attempt made by the growers also suffered a fresh setback in August, when flood waters inundated the seedbeds further.

Even their third attempt faced setback anew with the on-

rush of flood waters which continued until September 15 in the eastern districts.

Meanwhile, 'Bona Aman' on 2,700 hectares of land, 'Aus' and 'T-Aman' on 1200 hectares, jute on 11,260 hectares, vegetables on 5,000 hectares, banana on 2,000 hectares and betel leaf on 140 hectares of land got damaged during the flood in the district.

AED had fixed a target of bringing 19,200 hectares of land under 'Ropa Aman', with a view to producing 38,400 tonnes of rice during the season.

According to the AED estimates, the total crop loss stood at Tk 134 crore.

It is in a desperate bid to grow foodgrains that the farmers of the district have begun replanting 'T-Aman' seedlings, sources said.

Juddomoni alive, safe now

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 4: Juddomoni Chakma, who reportedly died in the Saturday's clash at Dighinala, is alive and safe now, reports UNB.

A few national dailies on Sunday published a report that two persons including Juddomoni died and 45 others sustained injuries in a clash over a football match.

The injured Juddomoni was immediately rushed to the Sadar Hospital on Saturday and following deterioration of his condition due to excessive bleeding the district Civil Surgeon sought help of the local army official Brigade Major Razib who shifted him to their MDS treatment centre.

Later, as per his request the army jawans donated eight bags of blood for Juddomoni who was successfully operated upon with the blood at the MDS.

According to official sources, Juddomoni on Sunday was transferred to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital by an army helicopter where he was improving fast.

8,591 tubewells damaged by Netrakona flood

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Oct 4: The floods have caused wide damage to crops, houses, educational institutions, roads, bridges, culverts, embankments and tubewells.

According to the district administration, a total of 1,722 square kilometre areas in 10 thanas of the district have been affected by flood.

The affected thanas are Netrakona Sador, Barhetta, Burgapur, Kalnakanda, Purbadhala, Atpara, Mohangonj, Khalajuri and Madan.

According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Department, 43 persons were killed due to flood related incidents. Of the victims, 23 in Purbadhala, 15 in Atpara and 5 in Mohangonj thana. But unofficial sources said, about 70 people died by flood related incidents

in the district. Unofficial sources said the money and rice sanctioned by the government are very inadequate. Standing crops and seedbeds worth about Tk 26 crore have been damaged by the prolonged flood in 85 unions in 10 thanas of the district.

The Agriculture Extension Department sources said, floods damaged transplanted 'Aman' paddy, 'Aus' paddy and seedbeds and other standing crops on 27,691 hectares of land in the district.

According to Public Health Engineering Department, 8,591 tubewells were damaged by flood in 10 thanas of the district. A total of 839 tubewells were damaged completely and 7,752 tubewells partially. The repairing work of tubewells damaged partially is going on.



CHANDPUR: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Chandpur unit distributing relief goods among the flood victims of Purnabazar. — Star photo



BARISAL: Bankers' Club of Barisal recently distributed relief materials among the flood affected people of Satra union in Uzirpur thana. — Star photo



BRAHMANBARIA: Local MP Dilara Harun recently distributed prizes as the chief guest among the best pisciculturists of the district on the occasion of Fisheries Week '98 here. — Star photo



GAIBANDHA: The members of Gaibandha Dramatic Club collecting donations for the flood victims of the district. — Star photo



FARIDPUR: Police Super Md Majibur Rahman distributing relief good among the flood victims of village, Diara Narikal Baria in sadar thana. — Star photo



NATORE: The Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation, Natore distributing relief goods among the flood stricken people of Lalpur thana. — Star photo