Sirajganj newsmen's mourning

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, July 23: A big mourning procession was brought out and street corner meeting was held here on Saturday morning demanding immediate arrest of the killers of journalist Shamsur Rahman.

About 60 journalists wearing black badge took part in the procession organised by Jatiyo Sangbadik Shangstha, a journalists' organisation. It started from Mujib Road which paraded the main streets of the town.

Sirajganj Press Club also held a condolence meeting on Friday night at the club. Zakirul Islam, president, Sirajganj Press Club was in the chair.

Among others, Helal Uddin, General Secretary, Tofizuddin, Joint Secretary of the club, former President of the press club, Akhteruzzamna Bablu Sirajganj correspondent of The Daily Star, Masud Rana and Nazrul Kabir Rana, spoke in the meeting. The journalists here will wear black badges. They also expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Man killed in Rajshahi clash

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, July 23: A man was killed and 13 others were injured in a clash between two factions of a school management

committee at Bagha upazila here

on Monday. According to witnesses, supporters of the factions of Haripur High School Managing Committee clashed following an altercation in the evening, resulting in death of Imdadul Huq. Huq succumbed to his injuries in Rajshahi Medical College Hospi-

The supporters of both the factions used sharp weapons

during the clash. The feud developed, as a section of members of the committee were demanding the resignation of the headmaster when he married a female teacher of the school few days ago.

The injured were admitted to Bagatipuara upzail Health Com-

The school managing committee president Atahar Ali filed a case in this connection accusing 22 people including headmaster Anwar Hossain.

Four unnatural deaths in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, July 23: Four unnatural deaths were reported in the district recently.

Dabiruddin Ahmed, 65, of South Alipur area in the town was killed on July 12 when a truck hit a rickshaw in which he was riding. The man succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

On the same day, a teenage girl drowned in a nearby pond where she went to have a bath. The girl was identified as Smritee, daughter of Mohammad Rashed, of East Khabashpur area in the town.

On July 12, Sakina, 45, a housewife, at village Krishnapur under Sadarpur upazila committed suicide at the dead of night by hanging herself.

On July 13, Arba Begum 25, wife of Sher Ali, reportedly committed suicide by taking poison. Separate UD cases were lodged in these connections.

Unabated use of firewood in Narail kilns

From Our Correspondent NARAIL, July 23: Brick field owners here are using firewood as fuel in kilns in violation of govern ment rule, causing severe environmental degradation.

According to an estimate, there are 23 brickfields in this district. Of them, Sadar upazila has 12 kilns, Lohagara 6 and Kalia 5. But most the owners are using firewood in kilns instead of coal."

Authorities here are reluctant to take action against the illegal activities, local people said. They have urged the authorities concerned to take measures to stop the malpractice immediately.

Jubo League activist arrested

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, July 23: The Sadar thana police arrested one local Jubo League activist from the railway colony area at about 12 pm on Saturday on charge of assaulting three truck worker

leaders. Police sources said arrested Majnu, 23, along with 10 others demanded toll from the truck worker leaders who refused to give toll. As a result they attacked them and other workers. They also blasted crackers in the railway colony area. After the attack the truck workers' union leaders went to the Awami League office and demanded arrest of the culprits. The Jubo League activists got furious and again attacked them. After the second attack some truck workers entered forcibly into the house of Jubo League leader Masum in the railway colony on Saturday and damaged the house.

Two separate cases were lodged with the sadar police

station.



Bamboo is still the main construction material of most villagers in Jamalpur district. Unabated destroying of bamboo clusters leads to bamboo crisis, resulting in its price-hike. Picture shows small traders waiting beside a road to sell bamboo at Narikel Bazaar in Sadar upazila. --Star photo

Jute farming declines

From Our Correspondent

price. Beside, many jute mills are

reluctant to purchase jute

cultivation has been declining in Jute farmers said middlemen the district, one of the largest jute always control the price in local producing areas of the country. markets, depriving them of fair as farmers are opting for other

directly from the growers. Low price of jute, once the encouraging the middlemen. country's main source of export earning, over the years has frus-Our Jamalpur correspondent says: About 20 thousand hecttrated the growers to cultivate the ares of land in Jamalpur district have been brought under jute Sources with the local Agricul-

> according to AED sources. The target of cultivation was not achieved here as acute seed crisis was prevailing during culti-

cultivation in the current season,

Farmers have attributed the crisis to the change in seed distribution system by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).

River erosion takes alarming

turn in Netrakona, Faridpur

a losing battle to save their home-

sandbags and timbers.

and its tributaries

Many villagers are now fighting homeless in Sharlatpur during in miseries.

steads from erosion by dumping

the authorities concerned to take

necessary steps to save the villag-

ers from further destruction.

Local UP chairmen called upon

The number of homeless peo-

ple has marked an unusual risent

in greater Faridpur district due to

unabated erosion by the Padma

Madaripur, Rajbari, Faridpur,

Shariatpur and Gopalganj dis-

erosion by Padma Arial Khan,

Kumar, Kirtinasha, Madhumati,

Chandana, and Palardi in last

district administration, about

15,000 families were rendered

Fish production dwindling

Number of ponds is 32,393

32,144 are privately

achieve the target of production.

here, covering the area of 5,487

hectares. Of them, 249 are run by

Fisheries Department, while the

Another source said the num-

ber of rivers flowing through the

district is nine. The number of

canals is 63, covering area of

Number of beels is 98 here,

UNB from Kushtia adds: Fish

output in the country's south-

western districts, including

Kushtia, continues to decline due

fish output can be doubled by

making the Pond Development

Act 1993 fully effective, as it

permits the DCs and UNOs to

cultivate fish in unused ponds

and water bodies if their owners

fail to cultivate fish within a stip-

Experts feel that the country's

330.77 hectares.

to various.

ulated time.

According to sources at the

tricts lost their homesteads in

Some 50,000 families in

hectares of land have been BADC only supplied only brought under the cultivation

cash crops due to low price of

tural Extension Department

(AED) said farmers used to bring

about 45 thousand hectares of

land every season under jute

cultivation during the pre-

liberation period. At present, on

overage 8 thousand hectares of

land are brought under the culti-

Only about five thousands

Erosion by rivers has taken

alarming turn in Netrakona and

greater Faridpur districts, ren-

dering a large number of people

rivers Mogra, Kangshaw,

Swameswari and Donu in six

upazilas of the district has taken

an alarming turn, foreing many

villagers to take shelter at safer

The worst affected upazilas are

Sadar, Atpara, Barhatta,

Durgapur, Purbadhala and

According to an unofficial

estimate, over 300 families were

rendered homeless by erosion in

the area while standing crops on

some 100 acres of land were

washed away since the onset of

SHARIATPUR, July 23: Fish

production has declined in the

district due to absence of proper

planning, dearth of capital, dis-

pute over ownership of water

bodies and complexities in

Government plan to bring

silted ponds and other water

bodies under pisciculture has not

been implemented, declining the

annual fish production in the

district now stands at 20,000

According to the sources,

gradual fall in production in all

government-owned fishery pro-

jects including six oxbow lakes

in Shariatpur, is responsible for

the overall decline. Besides, a

large number of ponds and water

According to a report, during

the last fiscal all the oxbow lakes

except one miserably failed to

bodies are out of pisciculture.

reports BSS.

fish output.

metric tons.

demarcation of khas lands, owned.

In Netrakona, erosion by the

homeless, report agencies.

vation.

NETRAKONA, July 23: Jute this season here against the twenty metric tons of seeds in the target of 8 thousands hectares. district, which was insufficient.

> Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: Farmers in the district are also opting for other cash crops due to low price of jute.

As the growers are not getting fair prices the jute cultivation has been on the wane.

The cultivation target has not been achieved this season. Last year only 4,810 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation against the target of 15,325 hectares of land, producing only 55,315 bales of jute against the target of 176,237 bales.

Last year the farmers were compelled to sell jute between Taka 350 and 490 per maund, much the production cost of Tk

Instead of cultivating jute the farmers are now opting for pulses and other corps.

A total of 35 villages in

Some 1500 families lost their

homesteads in last two months in

Rajbari Sadar upazila also in-

Chandana

erosion by the Hadma and

In Madaripur, the mighty

Padma engulfed the lands of

about 15,000 families during the

period while 400 families were

rendered homeless due to river-

bank erosion in Kashiani upazila

According to an unofficial

estimate, over 50,000 families of

the region are now living on flood

protection embankments and

highways and passing their days

of Gopalganj district.

Faridpur district went into the

gorges of Padma and Arial Khan

rendering 7,000 families home

Schemes underway to develop land ports

SATKHIRA, July 23: Commerce Minister MA Jalil has said the government is implementing massive programmes for the overall development of land ports in different parts of the country, reports BSS.

This is aimed at facilitating the land ports to raise their contribution to the development of export and import trade, the minister said at a public meeting here on Tuesday.

Organised under the auspices of Satkhira Sadar Upazila Awami League, the meeting was presided over by its president Nazrul

The Commerce Minister stressed the importance of land ports for the development of the country's economy and informed that Taka 5 crore had already been sanctioned for the development of Bhomra land port, an

official handout said. Referring to the political situation in the country, Jalil said when the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is proceeding to achieve economic emancipation, conspirators have formed alliance to halt this process.

He mentioned various propeople programmes like old age allowance, allowance for widows and for the distressed taken up by the present government.

Earlier the Minister held discussions with the users of Bhomra land port and assured them all possible assistance to resolve the problems they are now facing.

Another report from Mymensingh says: Commerce

Minister Abdul Jalil on Thursday called upon the people from al walks of life to resist the antiliberation forces conspiring against the ongoing development and democratisation process in

the country. Speaking at a reception accorded the newly elected office bearers of Nasriabad College Students Union in the college premises, the minister said the anti-liberation forces of Jammat-Shibir by creating instability in the country are hampering the

image of Bangladesh abroad. Referring to the recent killings in Chittagong and journalist killing in Jessore, the minister said these vicious cycles which killed Bangabandhu in 1975 confining democracy in cantonment are now again active to stop the country's development efforts.

Jahanara Khan MP, Hafez Ruhul Amin Madani MP, joint secretary f Bangladesh Krishak League Badiuzzaman Badsha, president of district Awami League Principal Matiur Rahman, general secretary Nazimuddin Ahmed, Awami League central committee member Mujibur Rahman Milki, president of district Chhatra League Ashish Kumar Nandi and newly elected vice president and general secretary of the college students union Liton Chandra Pal and Akehrul-al-Alam, among others, spoke at the meeting, which was presided over by collage principal Reazul Islam.

school at his native village.

Later the school building was

There is no boundary wall of

constructed in 1968 with only five

rooms with the government

the school. Doors and Windows

are not well equipped and rainwa-

ter leaks from the roof as the

UGC team

visits CU

From Our Correspondent

of the University Grant Commis-

sion (UGC) visited Chittagong

University on Sunday to assess the damage done to different

structures of the university fol-

lowing June 24 landslide which

The inspection team visited

affected houses in South Resi-

dential Area on the campus,

different halls, department build-

also killed five people.

ings and roads.

CHITTAGONG, July 23: A team

building is very old.

grants. It nationalized in 1973.

Shailakupa Degree College limping with problems

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, July 23: Shailakupa Government Degree College in the district has been limping with manifold problems including dearth of teachers and classrooms, hampering academic activities.

College sources said the educational institution, which was established in 1969 and later nationalised in 1992, has been facing shortage of teachers. The crisis is acute in Bangla and

English departments. Only 13 subjects are available in the college. Subjects like Computer Science, Statistics, Philosophy, Social Welfare and Psychology have not been introduced in the college, much to the frustra-

tion of students. When contacted, Vice Principal of the college said many posts of teachers have been lying vacant for a long time.

Another serious problem of the college is shortage of classrooms. "Classes of the college remain suspended during the HSC examinations due to shortage of classrooms," said a student of BA

Some students and teachers said although the college was nationalised, facilities were not given accordingly.

Teacher and students have urged the authorities concerned to resolve the problems of the college immediately.

BSS from Naogaon adds: Ninety-yea-old Khatasharaninagar Government Primary School in Raninagar upazila of the district is now facing various problems such as shortage of class-rooms teachers and furni-

This school was established in 1910, on a plot of three bighas of land, which was then the first primary school in the upazila.

Railway station master and writer late Sadar Amiruddin Ahmed donated his land and built a tin-shed for this primary

Death anniversary

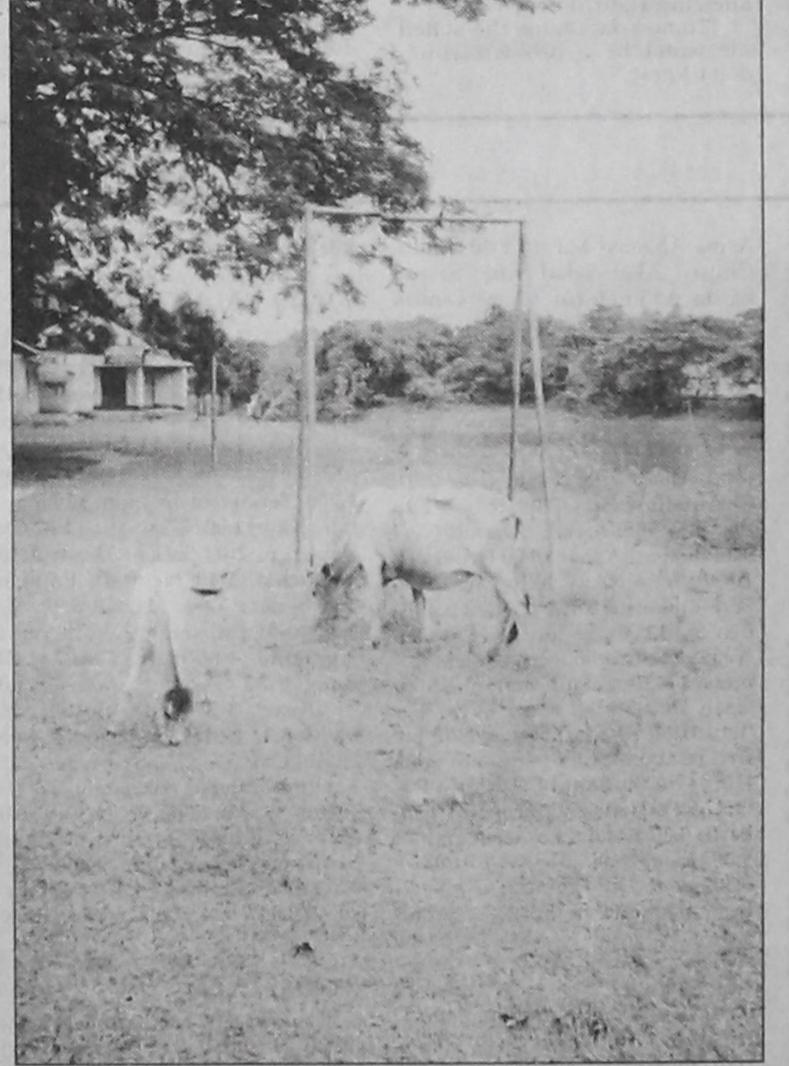
From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, July 23: The 9th death anniversary of Advocate Shamsuddin Molla, a former MP, was observed here on July 10.

Discussions were held at Faridpur Municipality building, Faridpur Press Club and district unit Awami League office on the

In the discussions, the speakers recalled Molla's contributions to War of Liberation.

Shamsuddin Molla, also a journalist, served Faridpur Press Club as its president from 1966 to

He was also president of the district Awami League from 1968 to 1971 and president of the district Bar Association from 1972-1975.



The children's park in Netrakona district headquarters has become a grazing field due to negligence by the authorities concerned. Locals have urged the authorities to take care of the park.

-- Star photo

News snaps



Haphazard parking creates traffic jam: Reconstruction work of Sirajganj Bus Terminal is going on, but there is no alternative place for parking the motor vehicles. Drivers have been parking their vehicles on busy streets of the town in a haphazard manner. Photo shows a traffic jam on the main road in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office due to whimsical parking of buses. ---Star photo

Farmers deprived of fair price

SHERPUR, July 23: The benefit of government's grain procurement drive hardly reaches the genuine farmers as middlemen in collusion with a section of food officials prevent them from selling their produces at procurement centres, reports UNB.

The government in its traditional move to give price support to the paddy, rice and wheat growers launched the procurement drive in the district on May 25. But the middlemen and millers in collaboration with a section of dishonest food officials are forcing the growers to sell their produces to them at much cheaper rate than that of the procurement centres.

BKB loan disbursed

NARSINGDI, July 23: Narsingdi region of Bangladesh Krhishi Bank (BKB) disbursed about Taka 21.11 crore as agriculture loan during the year 1999-2000 fiscal year, reports BSS.

Official source said that this amount was distributed among 13,545 farmers in six upazilas in the region. Thirteen branches of the Krishi Bank disbursed the loan. Target of the loan disbursement for the year was Taka 19 crore 39 lakh 55 thousand. Bangladesh Krishi Bank exceeded the target during the year. BKB realised Taka 20 crore 64 lakh 50 thousand in the region during the same period. A total of Taka 37 crore 14 lakh 99 thousand is lying as overdue with farmer in the region.

Outlaw arrested

BOGRA, July 23: A suspected member of an outlawed party of Kushtia was arrested from this northern district town's hawkers market on Wednesday while trying to buy old police uniforms, reports UNB

Police arrested Ruhul Amin, son of Ibrhim Mondal of village Chand in Bheramara of Kushtia district when he went to purchase old police dresses from the market at about 8 pm. Ruhul Amin confessed to his affiliation with an underground party. Police continued to interrogate him.

Cheques distributed

JAMALPUR, July 23: Over Taka 3 crore 25 lakh has been spent during the last fiscal for repair, renovation and development of mosques in different parts of the country, reports BSS.

State Minister for religious Affairs Maulana Moihammad Nurul Islam said this while handing over cheques of grants to different religious institutions here at the office of Deputy Commissioner. He said the government was extending financial support whatever possible on its part to help strengthen religious activities and provided grant amounting to Taka 30 lakh 50 thousand to various religious institutions in the last fiscal. The new Muslims and the distressed people also received Taka 18 lakh as grant, he added Parliament members Rezaul Karim Hira and Mirza Azam and district officials were present at the function.

BCUTA biennial confce

MYMENSINGH, July 23: The 4th biennial conference of Bangladesh College University Teachers Association (BCUTA), Mymensingh District Unit was held recently, reports BSS. The meeting was presided over by Principal M Reazul Islam. Prof

Dr M Aminul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh BUCTA central committee attended the conference as chief and special guest respectively. Among others Principal M Shahjahan, Principal Alhaj M Matiur Rahman, Prof M A Bari, M Momtajuddin, Prof Azharul Islam and Prof Zinnat Ali spoke on the occasion. A 41-member executive committee with Principal M Rezaul Islam and Prof Golam Sarwar as president and secretary respectively has been formed for the next two years.

Students punished under PSA

MYMENSINGH, July 23: A court there on Wednesday punished a college student with two years imprisonment in a case filed under PSA, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge AKM Fazlur Rahman, who is also the Judge of Special Court on PSA, sentenced Suman Ghosh to the jail term in the first verdict under the PSA here. The case was in brief that Suman ransacked Mymensingh Women's college examination centre following his expulsion from HSC examination on April 29.

Tablig Jamaat

JAMALPUR, July 23: A three-day Tablig Jamaat, arranged by district Tablig Jamaat, begins at the AKM college ground in Dewangani on July 27, reports UNB.

District Amir of Tablig Jamaat Dr Abdul Mutaal announced the programme on Friday. The organisers have sought co-operation of all for successful holding of the three-day programme.

Contraband seized

COMILLA, July 23: BDR Jawans seized contraband worth over Tk 17.84 core from different frontier areas here in last one year, reports Officials said the smuggled goods, including phensidyl, tube

lights, saris, hemp, sugar, cassette players, powdered milk, bicycle, blouse pieces, medicine and fruits, were recovered from July 1999 to June 2000. Some 4318 cases were filed against 113 people during the period. A total of 273 BDR men were also during the period for their involvement in smuggling.

M Ed course opens in Khulna

KHULNA, July 23: Masters of Education (MEd) course has been introduced for the first time in Khulna in Government Teachers Training College (TTC) for the academic year 2000-2001 under the National University, reports BSS.

An inaugural function was held in this connection on its office premises on Tuesday. Presided over by Principal of TT College Mohammad Ilias, it was addressed, among others, by Assistant Professors M Maruful Haque, M Abdur Rahman, Sharifa Khanam and M Ed Trainer Monirul Islam. MEd course has been started in TT College to meet the demand of the people of the southern region. A total of 60 trainees have been admitted into the first M Ed Course.

Loan for fishermen

BRAHMANBARIA, July 23: A meeting regarding distribution of loan among the members of Nazirnagar Mahakhalpur Poor Fishermen amity was held at BRDB auditorium with BRDB Chairman on the chair recently, reports BSS.

About Taka 1,20,000 loan was distributed among 20 members of the samity with the initiative of Nasirnagar BRDB (Padabik). The meeting was addressed, among others, by thana Chhatra League secretary Asaduzzaman Chowdhury, RDO Mahmudul Haque, ARDO (Padabik) Munsi Saheeduzzaman. The president in his speech urged to take new loan by refunding the old one for making them self-dependent.

Work progressing

SHERPUR, July 23: Work on the construction of Madhu Tila tourist centre in Nalitabari upazila at a cost of over Tk 3 crore is progressing fast, reports UNB.

District council is supervising the work of the centre. Official sources said the construction work of the roads and lake of the centre has already completed. Work on the construction of rest house, bench, umbrella, and a tower will begin soon.

uted certificates.

organisations for fish farming paying their owners a specific amount of revenue. In an effort to give a boost to fish production, local Fisheries Department had undertaken a project to bring derelict ponds

and other water bodies of the

district under fish farming, but

Under the law, such water

bodies can be leased out for 20

years to any individuals or

the scheme could not implemented for reasons unknown. As per the programme, some 52, 379 small and large ponds out of 5,00,000 in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Jessore,

produce fish worth of Tk five crore every year by brining the derelict

'None will be allowed to upset peace in CHT'

According to official source, covering area of 26,659 hectares.

MOHALCHHARI, Khagrachhari, the CHT if the people of the region July 23: A congenial atmosphere has been created in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for peaceful co-existence of tribal and nontribal people after the signing of the landmark peace accord in 1997, CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma said here on

Thursday, reports BSS. "None would be allowed to upset the peace," he said while exchanging views with local Union Parishad chairmen, members, headmen and eminent persons at the Dak Bungalow

"Some misguided anitliberation forces are plotting against the peace agreement," he said, adding," We are ready to give them a good lesson."

For the overall development of the hilly region, a huge investment was needed, the minister said, adding a number of foreign countries and organisations had

shown interest in investment. The minister said none of the conspirators would be able to create obstacles to investment in

remained united. Another report from Rangamati adds: Minister for Environment and Forest Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhruy on Thursday said the CHT peace accord had opened up an avenue towards development of the hill region with the sincere initiative of the present government led by Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina. 'The past governments did not take any initiative for peace in the CHT region and for that reason development did not take place here," she said while exchanging views with forest officials of the Rangamati circle, an official handout said.

The Minister said the CHT peace accord had already received appreciation from abroad leading to enhancing country's image in different international forums.

"The government has already started implementing various development projects here for the greater benefit of the people of this region as well as the nation."

Chuadanga, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat were supposed Chuadanga, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat were supposed to have been brought under fish farming.

Officials said it is possible to ponds under the farming. Reception

BANDARBAN, July 23: Chair-

man of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Development Board (CHTDB) Bir

Bahadur MP called upon all to

work for the welfare of the disadvantaged section of our people reports BSS. He was speaking as a chief guest in a reception given to the talented students of SSC and Junior Scholarship winners organised by Bandarban Govern-

town hall on Saturday. The meeting was presided over by Assistant Headmaster of the school Mahfuzur Rahman.

ment High School in Bandarban

Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman Tuaing Cha Prue Master, Bomang Circle Raja, Aungswoi Prue Chowdhury and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council member Saifur Rahman were present as special guests in the reception. It is noted that Shakawat

Hossain Majumder stood ninth in

order of merit in the last SSC examination held under Chittagong Education Board. Sixty five students of Bandarban Government High School got first division, eight of them got star marks. Chief guest and special guest

donated Taka 20,000 and distrib-