

District roundup

KHULNA
Fund for shrimp cultivation
 Aug 28: The government has allocated Taka two thousand crore as loan for the cultivation and export of shrimp. This was stated by the Deputy Governor of the Bangladesh Bank ABM Mahbubul Alam during his discussion with the representatives of shrimp cultivators chamber of commerce and industries, and the local administration in Satkhira recently, reports BSS.

Alam said that the government has included shrimp cultivation in the industrial list to increase production and export of this item.

Alam however, expressed his dismay that the absence of co-ordination between the shrimp cultivators, fisheries department and the financial institutions might falter the scheme. He called upon all concerned to make the government shrimp cultivation scheme a success through closer cooperation among themselves an intensive cultivation of shrimp means an increase of export which in its turn means foreign exchange, he exhorted.

Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira Mujibur Rahman and President of the Bangladesh Shrimp Cultivators Association Dr Aftabzaman also spoke in the meeting.

CHUADANGA
3 outlawed partymen arrested
 Aug 28 : Police rounded up three alleged members of the outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party from Kiranagachi village in Sadar thana of the district on Wednesday, says UNB.

The arrested are Shahidul (24), Lahu (30) and Ashadul (26).

A country-made pistol, 4 rounds of SMG ammunition, posters and a list of killed persons were also recovered from their possession, police said.

Acting on secret information, a contingent of police led by SI Shamsul Haque raided a house of the village and nabbed the outlaws while a group of activists of the underground party were holding a meeting.

MADARIPUR
Petro Bangla starts commercial use of pit coal
 Aug 28 : The Petro Bangla has taken up a number of projects for the extraction and commercial use of pit coal in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

An area of six acres of land has been acquired in Kendua union to assess the extraction and commercial use of pit coal on experimental basis. Similar projects were taken up in Rotmaji union of Sadar thana.

It may be mentioned here that a number of pit coal mines have already been discovered in Sadar, Rajoir and Kalkini thanas of the district.

FARIDPUR
Prakrichi, BCS coordination body meet held
 Aug 28 : The monthly meeting of the district Prakrichi and BCS Co-ordination Committee was held here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Chaired by Abdul Mattin Talukdar, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension Department and Convenor, district committee, the meeting was attended by 60 officials including engineers, krishibid and doctors.

It was resolved in the meeting that henceforth no member of the committee will address the Deputy Commissioner as Zila Prashashak in official correspondence.

It was also addressed by Mahmudul Islam, Executive Engineer, LGED, Shah Alam Executive Engineer, PWD, Mahbubul Alam, district Fisheries Officer, Asgar Ali, district Livestock Officer and the Principal, Agriculture Extension and Training Institute.

The speakers called upon the government to fulfill their 17 point demand without further delay. The demands include holding of district development committee meeting chaired by public representative instead of Deputy Commissioner.

KAPASIA
BNP women's conference held
 Aug 28 : The biennial conference of Kapsasia thana unit of the Jatayatbadi Mohila Dal was held here Thursday, reports BSS.

Advocate Salina Begum and Sufia Begum were elected president and general secretary respectively for the next two years.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah who attended the conference as chief guest urged the party workers to disseminate the ideals and programmes of the party at the grass root level, a PID handout said.

Later the minister visited the temple of the goddess Kalta at the Kapsasia thana. He assured allout cooperation of the government for the development of the temple, the handout said.

SHERPUR
Torrential rain damages huge crops
 Aug 28 : Standing crops on 11,730 acres of land in five thanas of the district have been damaged due to torrential rain and onrush of hilly waters in last one month, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, crops on 1042 acres were damaged in Sadar, 9125 acres in Jhenaidah, 740 acres in Nalitabari, 352 acres in Nakla and 471 acres in Sreebordi thanas of the district.

Another report adds: The forest Extension Department has taken up a programme to distribute 5.15 lakh saplings among the people of six thanas.

Official sources said the saplings are being sold among the interested people at a nominal price. These include cocunut, mehagony, arjun, debdaru and koro.

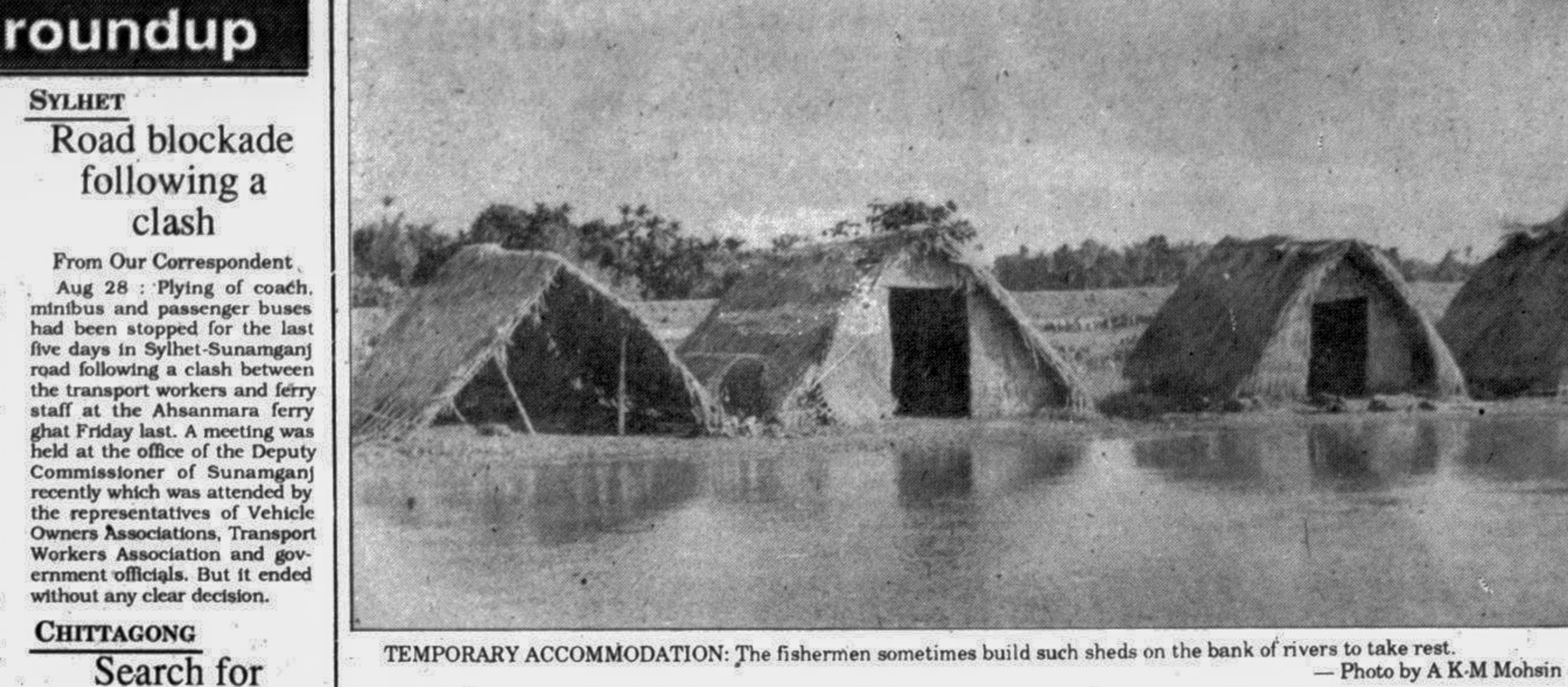
SYLHET
Road blockade following a clash
 From Our Correspondent
 Aug 28 : Plying of coach, minibus and passenger buses had been stopped for the last five days in Sylhet-Sunamganj road following a clash between the transport workers and ferry staff at the Ahsanmara ferry ghat Friday last. A meeting was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj recently which was attended by the representatives of Vehicle Owners Associations, Transport Workers Association and government officials. But it ended without any clear decision.

CHITTAGONG
Search for gold continues
 Aug 28 : Customs authorities Thursday continued their search in the foreign vessel, after two of its crews, Filipino nationals, were arrested with 1500 tolas of gold Wednesday, reports UNB.

Customs officials recovered some undeclared spare parts and 200 US dollars from the MV Menglee, a Singapore vessel.

Meanwhile, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted two days police remand of the arrested crews Thursday.

Captain of the ship, however, made no comments about the incident.



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION: The fishermen sometimes build such sheds on the bank of rivers to take rest. — Photo by A K M Mohsin

No terminal at most launch ghats

From Our Correspondent

BARGUNA, Aug 28 : Most of the launch ghats in southern region have no terminal for which passengers suffer much. The existing launch terminals are beset with various problems causing utter inconvenience to the travelling people. The finished roof and railing at the enclosure of launch ghats which were made long ago have become unworthy of use.

Rain water pour into the shed causing immense suffering to the waiting passengers during the rain and storm. Passengers have to stand on their foot for want of bench. There is no toilet at the ghats.

It can be mentioned here that the launch terminals which have been damaged during the devastating cyclone of April 29, 1991 have not yet been repaired.

Female smokers on increase
 The number of female smokers is increasing day by day in the rural areas of the district.

Anti-smoking drive has been launched at the towns of the district and publicity has been going on in this regard.

But there are no drive and publicity against smoking in the rural areas of the district.

A survey reveals that the smoking tendency among the old women has increased mainly in the areas of tobacco crushing mills and factories of the district.

Proper nursing enables a bamboos tree to give birth to at least 20 tender bamboo plants every year, agricultural experts opined.

Due to lack of proper nursing and maintenance a bamboo tree gives birth only to two or three tender plants every year. As a result, bamboo production is not increasing in proportion to the increasing demand.

It can be mentioned here that about 90 per cent of the dwelling houses in this district are kutcha. The materials chiefly used in the construction of these houses include bamboo. Now, the price of bamboo ranges from Taka 70 to 110 per piece. Eighty per cent of villagers cannot afford to purchase it at an exorbitant price.

Gay girls
 The number of gay girls is increasing in different areas of the town giving rise to anti-social activities.

Local people said the gay girls are found alluring people in launch ghat, Bazar Road, Tahsil office area, and some of Katpatty area of the town.

According to report, a middle-aged woman of Katpatty area is carrying on immoral business at the town. She allegedly collects young girls from the villages on the assurance of giving good jobs and later compels them to resort to immoral activities for earning money.

The elite of the town urged the authorities to check the growing menace and take immediate steps to rehabilitate these floating gay girls so that they can lead of decent life.

Scarcity of medicine
 UNB adds: Scarcity of medicine in the hospitals, thana health centres and union health centres created immense suffering to the people of the district.

Local people alleged that dettol or savlon and other necessary and most common medicines are not available in the rural health centres.

The out-door services of all the hospitals have become almost paralysed due to non-availability of drugs. Most of the patients who come from far flung areas are to go back disappointed without treatment.

Besides, admitted patients are to collect the life-saving drugs from outside at high prices.

Official sources said, only Tk 2.5 lakh is sanctioned every year for medicine, mattress, bedsheet, pillow cover, mosquito nets and surgical instruments for each hospital and Tk 30,000 for every union health centre for centre as against the requirement of Tk 5 lakh for each hospital and one lakh taka for each union health centre.

It was alleged that some dishonest officials of the hospitals and health centres are selling the medicines on the black market aggravating the suffering of the poor patients.

Menon for left forces' unity

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28 : Leader of the five-party alliance and General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party Nuruddin Zahir Chowdhury, Binode Bihari Chowdhury, Nuruddin Zahir Manju, Abdul Halim and Prof Nilufar Sultana representing different progressive bodies were among others who were present on the occasion.

Another report says: Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan Friday termed the Bosnian situation as the moral degradation of world conscience and said all irrespective of cast, creed, colour and religion will have to be vocal against this inhuman activities.

He was addressing as chief guest at a seminar on 'Bosnia crisis: Bangladesh perspective' at the Muslim institute here.

The minister said, the way the Muslims across the world are being subjected to killing and suppression is really very tragic. To overcome this situation Islamic groups of the world will have to come forward.

The key note paper was read out by the New Nation Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin in the seminar organised by Council for World Muslim Affairs.

With former ambassador and secretary Ahmed Farid in the chair, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Open University Vice Chancellor Dr Shamsur Ali, Chittagong University Prof. Dr. Abu Saleh, Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal A A Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, A K M Rafiqullah, Chairman Salahuddin Kasem Khan and Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza.

Another report adds: The 17th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated here Friday with a pledge to fight against all injustice and communalism.

Different socio-cultural, literary organisations and national institutions celebrated the day holding seminar, discussion meetings, cultural functions, musical soiree and milad mahfil.

A two-day programme under the auspices of Nazrul Academy, Chittagong began here which includes Koran khwari and milad mahfil, while discussion on life and works of the rebel poet will be held on Saturday.

Local dailies published special articles evaluating his literary works, while Radio Bangladesh Chittagong put up special programmes on the occasion.



Prof R I Chowdhury, VC of Chittagong University planting a sapling at the Memorial Plantation Garden of the Institute of Forestry on the occasion of a tree plantation programme recently. — CU photo

BNP workers asked to maintain discipline

GAZIPUR, Aug 28 : The BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder on Friday called upon the party leaders and workers to carry forward the process of national development on the basis of spirit of nationalism and national entity, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief at the biennial conference of Gazipur district BNP at the local Rajbari Auditorium.

Presided over by State Minister for Science and Technology Prof. M A Mannan, the conference was addressed, among others, by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharruf Hussain and Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah.

Barrister Salam Talukder said the people of this country have rejected those who had introduced one-party rule by destroying democracy, robbed freedom of press, deprived people of their fundamental rights and created famine.

Dismissing the opposition charges of corruption and politicalisation of everything against the present government. The BNP Secretary General said politicalisation has been constitutionally recognised in many democratic countries of the world. If the administration was to be involved in implementing the party programmes then we must have to do it, he stressed.

Dr. Khandakar Mosharruf Hussain called upon the party leaders and workers to give institutional shape to democracy by foiling all conspiracies against the country and BNP.

Hannan Shah urged them to maintain discipline and unity in their rank.

Prof M A Mannan called upon all to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister to implement 19-point programme of the party.

Private tuition now a commercial practice

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 28 : Private tuition has become a commercial practice in Kishoreganj town and 12 thanas of the district.

Teachers of both the government and non-government schools and colleges are said to be engaged in private tuition to make extra money.

The guardians alleged that the teachers hardly teach students sincerely in the classes. As a result, the students find it difficult to understand their lessons taught in the classes and the guardians are compelled to engage private tutors.

Most of the students enrolled in primary, secondary schools and colleges belonging to affluent families usually employ their school teachers as house tutors for intensive studies for good results in the examinations. The elite feel that private tutorial practice has become an extra professional business of the teachers.

The science group teachers attract a large number of students for coaching in batches. The teachers of English and Accounting subjects also coach students in batches. Private coaching by the teachers in batches starts before and after the school or college hours.

Teachers receive handsome amounts for private coaching in batches. Private coaching is also being practised at the higher secondary and degree levels for securing good result in practical subjects like chemistry, biology, physics.

Students who follow science subjects express that it has become impossible to obtain better results without the aid of private tutors for gathering clear conception and thorough knowledge on the topics.

Besides, teachers of thana level schools and colleges have also been practising private tuitions on commercial basis.

Barosharif Darbar to observe Miladunnabi

The Barosharif Darbar, Courtpara Kushtia has chalked out elaborate programme to observe the holy Eid-E-Miladunnabi on August 31 in a befitting manner, says a press release.

The programme includes khas mahfil, rawzamurarak jiarat, Quran khani and discussion on the life of Prophet Mohammad (SM).

The darbar committee has requested the devotees to attend the function.

CHANDPUR: Md Yakub Ali, DC planting a sapling on occasion of inaugurating a campaign programme. — Star photo

Massive plan taken up for T-aman farming

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 28 : Agriculture extension department has taken up an intensive programme to cultivate transplanting aman paddy in 10 southern districts this season.

According to a source of Agriculture Department, a total of seven lakh 62 hectares of land will be brought under this programme. The source informed that 40 thousand hectares in Chuadanga district, 40 thousand acres in Kushtia district, 14 thousand hectares in Meherpur district, 77 thousand hectares in Jhenidah district, 31 thousand 2 hundred hectares in Magura district, one thousand six hundred in Narail district, one lakh 77 thousand hectares in Jessore district, one lakh 21 thousand hectares in Khulna district, one lakh 35 thousand hectares in Satkhira district and one lakh 10 thousand hectares in Bargherhat district will be covered under this programme.

The source further added that the concerned farmers in these 10 districts will be provided with bank loans at minimum interest rates. Further, the block supervisors of the department are advising the peasants to make the programme a success.

If the weather favours about three crore maunds of paddy will be produced this season, the source added.

JCD clash, 5 injured
 Five workers of Jattayatbadi Chhatra Dal were injured in a clash between two groups of the organisation near Chanda cinema hall in the town recently.

According to reports, both the groups faced each other with swords and lethal weapons resulting in injuries of Mashhar Rahman (18), Moslem (25) and three others. Condition of Mashhar is stated to be critical.

College teachers threaten work stoppage

FARIDPUR, Aug 28: Government college teachers threatened to go for full day work stoppage on September 1 and 2 if their 16-point demands were not fulfilled by August 31, reports UNB.

The threat came at a regional meeting of BSC General Education held here on Thursday.

Principal of Government Yasin College and President of the association's Faridpur region, Prof Khandakar Nurul Islam, chaired the meeting, attended by teachers of 21 government colleges of Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Rajbari districts of the region.

It was addressed by, among others, Principal of Rejendra University College Prof Shamsur Rahman, Principal Saroda Sundari Mahila College Prof Mia Lutfar Rahman, Principal of Naria College Prof Alauddin Chokder and Vice Principal of Ramdia S K College Md Abdul Halim.

The speakers urged the concerned authorities to immediately meet their demands.

The demands include, among others, creation of posts as per report of Enam Commission in 118 government colleges, immediate appointments against vacant posts in different colleges and promotion of eligible teachers.

BKB disburses Tk 19.35 cr as agri loan in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 28: A total amount of Taka 19 crore 35 lakh five thousand was disbursed among the farmers of Sylhet district during the last financial year by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB).

According to an official source, a total of 4183 farmers got this amount as loan for cultivation of different crops and other agricultural purposes in 11 thanas of Sylhet district through the branches of the bank. The disbursed amount was 73 per cent of the total target of the bank during the period. The bank also realised an amount of Taka three crore 33 lakh 90 thousand from a total of two thousand eight hundred.