

News snaps

Wheat allocated for uplift work
RAJBARI, Nov 17: The government has allocated 427 tonnes of wheat in the first phase for four thanas and two pourashavas in the district under the Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Programme, reports APB.
 Official sources said 106 tonnes of wheat for Rajbari Sadar, 66 tonnes for Goalundo, 101 tonnes for Balaikandi and 134 tonnes for Pangsha thanas has been earmarked in the first phase. Besides, 20 tonnes of wheat has been allotted for Rajbari and Pangsha municipalities, they said. Repair and reconstruction of roads and highways, religious and educational institutions damaged by the floods and other development works would be done under the programme. The programme is being conducted under the auspices of the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry, said the sources.

Foodgrains sanctioned under FWP
MADARIPUR, Nov 17: The government has sanctioned 1,779 metric tons of foodgrains under Food for Works Programme (FWP) for maintenance of rural infrastructure in four thanas and three pourashavas here during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.
 Official sources said a number of damaged roads, culverts, educational and religious institutions will be repaired under the programme. Besides, the programme will also provide employment opportunities for the poor including women of remote areas. The people of sadar, Shibchar, Kalkini and Rajor thanas and Madaripur, Shibchar and Kalkini pourashavas will receive the facility. Meanwhile, the district administration has also received Tk 10 lakh from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for repair of the houses damaged by recent flood.

Mysterious death of housewife
JHALAKATI, Nov 17: A housewife died under mysterious circumstances at her residence in sadar thana of the district on Wednesday, police said, reports APB.
 Henara Begum, 28, wife of Zakir Hossain of village Deuri in sadar, committed suicide by taking insecticide, family sources said. However, villagers suspect that the woman was beaten to death by her husband. The body was sent to local hospital morgue, but the post-mortem report was not available till filing of the report.

Meeting of officials of different banks
CHANDINA, Comilla, Nov 17: A meeting of officials of different banks of the district, union parishad chairmen and farmers' representatives was held recently with Prof. Ali Ashraf, MP, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance at the local TDC auditorium, reports BSS.
 The meeting was held to apprise of the simple and speedy process initiated for extending agricultural loans to the farmers so that they could get loans without difficulties for agricultural rehabilitation. Prof. Ashraf, also the president of district Awami League while addressing the meeting cautioned the bankers so that farmers do not suffer in getting their loans. He urged the farmers to immediately report to the concerned authorities in case of any delay in getting agricultural loans.

BKB loan for farmers
MANIKGANJ, Nov 17: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken up a programme to disburse Tk 13.50 crore among the farmers of seven thanas of the district to overcome the losses of the devastating flood, reports BSS.
 The loan will be disbursed through 12 branches of the bank in the district to strengthen the rural economy during the post-flood period. The loan will be given for crops cultivation, poultry and cattle rearing, buying bullock for ploughing. The bank already has distributed a total of Taka 93 lakhs. Sonali, Agrani and Janata banks also have taken up a programme to disburse Tk 20.59 crore among the farmers of the district under its post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Graveyard facing space constraint
PIROJPUR, Nov 17: The age-old graveyard in the municipal area here has been facing space constraints due to selling of its land for reserved grave, reports UNB.
 The century-old graveyard situated on one acre of land by the side of Pirojpur-Bolarhat road was not extended considering the increase of population of the poura area. A study found that the population of the area has been increased 20 times since the establishment of the graveyard but the space of the land has not been increased. Besides, many town dwellers have been buying space more than one in advance for the burial of their family members due to shortage of land. The local people said there is enough scope to expand the graveyard in north and south sides but the pourashava authority failed to do the needful.

39,900 GVF cards distributed
THAKURGAON, Nov 17: The government has distributed 39,900 Vulnerable Group Feeding (GVF) cards throughout the district under the post-flood relief and rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.
 Out of 39,900 GVF cards 13,900 cards in Thakurgaon sadar thana 5,400 in Haripur thana, 7,400 in Baliaadganj thana, 5,400 in Pirganj thana, 5,400 in Ranisankail thana, 1,500 in Thakurgaon pourashava and 900 in Pirganj pourashava were distributed.

Three die from snake bite
SHARIATPUR, Nov 17: Three people, including two brothers, died from snake bite in Gosairhat thana recently, reports UNB.
 The victims were identified as Rabul, 17, and his younger brother Sohel, 14, of Dhalirhat village, and Jesmin, 9, of Kechuarchar village.

Hemp seized: Man arrested
LAXMIPUR, Nov 17: District Narcotics Control Department in separate drives arrested a male and seized 1,600 gram hemp from two drug-traffickers in the district recently, reports UNB.
 Police arrested Sekander, 25, of Sharifpur village in sadar thana and seized 800 gram hemp from his possession. Police in another drive also seized 800 gram hemp from Abdul Gafur at Haldarganj Bazar in Rayerpur thana.

Noor Hossain Day observed
COMILLA, Nov 17: Shaheed Noor Hossain Day was observed here by different political organisations recently, reports BSS.
 A discussion meeting was held at the Awami League office to pay tribute to Shaheed Noor Hossain who sacrificed his life for the cause of democracy. Mustafa Hossain Bachchu, president of Bijoypur Union Awami League presided over the meeting. Prof. Md. Abdul Momin Majumder, Mominul Hoque, Ratan Chandra Bhowmik and Serajul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Confce of rural doctors
NARSINGDI, Nov 17: A conference of the Bangladesh Palli Chikitsak Samiti was held at Narsingdi district headquarters in the local town hall auditorium, reports BSS.
 Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju MP, attended the conference as the chief guest. Presided over by Dr. Parimal Chandra Sarkar, the conference was inaugurated by Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi. Civil Surgeon Dr. J. C. Sutradhar, Police Super-M Khulshur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Palli Chikitsak Samiti Dr. Muhammad Sujat Ali and president of Narsingdi district BMA Dr. Merajul Islam addressed the conference as the special guests.

Agri-loan distributed
GAZIPUR, Nov 17: A target of Taka 40,10,50,000 agricultural loan has been fixed for distribution among the local farmers by Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Janata Bank, Sonali Bank and Agrani Bank in the current financial year in five thanas and two pourashavas under this district, reports BSS.
 Bank officials sources said, four banks so far distributed Taka 7,61,67,000 in the district. Bangladesh Krishi Bank distributed Taka 6,20,97,000 out of Taka 26,07,65,000, Janata Bank Taka 75,27,000 out of Taka 5,41,14,000, Sonali Bank Taka 39,53,000 out of Taka 4,82,85,000 and Agrani Bank Taka 25,90,000 out of Taka 3,78,86,000 as agricultural loan in the current financial year among the farmers.

Pry school dropouts on rise
FENI, Nov 17: Some 30,000 poor primary students in the district are facing difficulties in prosecuting their studies due to stoppage of wheat under Food For Education Programme, reports UNB.
 According to official sources, 187 primary schools of 15 unions in five thanas were brought under the programme in 1993 and some 27,293 single child families and 1,177 more than a child families were getting benefit. Each single child family was receiving 15 kgs and more than a child family 20 kgs of wheat per month. But the postponement of allocation of wheat for the last three months has created an adverse situation. Headmasters of many primary schools expressed the apprehension that if the wheat distribution project is not resumed immediately, the alarming dropout rate will jeopardise the universal primary education programme in the district.

Old man killed in clash
TANGAIL, Nov 17: Jonab Ali, a 90 year old man was killed and four others were injured in a clash in Moraid Garobazar in Ghatail thana on Monday, reports BSS.
 The clash occurred centering paddy harvesting. Police said, two persons — Mutaleb and Mofiz — were arrested and four others are being wanted in connection with this clash.

Kamanna, where 27 freedom fighters are sleeping

JHENIDAH, Nov 17: Five graveyards of martyred freedom fighters situated at village Kamanna have remained neglected for long 27 years since independence. Here 27 martyrs of our Liberation War are sleeping.
 Kamanna village is located about 13 kilometres east of Saikupa thana headquarter. A total of 27 freedom fighters including two associates had been brutally killed by the Occupation Pakistani forces and their collaborators in the early morning of November 27 in 1971.



JHENIDAH:Kamanna Shaheed Minar was built in memory of 27 freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. — Star photo.

From Delwar Kabir
 The day, Abu Bakar, a veteran freedom fighter of village Hazipur in Magura thana and Alamgir of village Malithia in Saikupa thana was leading the group. The young freedom fighters who took shelter inside the house of Madhab Bhowmik were 32 in number.

Some freedom fighters said, the information about the presence of freedom fighters reached the Pakistani military camp at Saikupa thana headquarter. Then two contingents of the Occupation Army and their collaborators from Saikupa and Magura ambushed the freedom fighters' camp at village Kamanna. The Occupation forces started firing aiming at the freedom fighters. Pakistani forces fired thousands rounds of bullets. The freedom fighters were stunned with the sudden attack by the Occupation forces. They were overwhelmed and tried to run

away to save their lives. They were firing shots and shells like rains. The firing ended before the 'Azan' at dawn, some freedom fighters said. The Occupation Army entered into the house of Madhab Bhowmik and killed 15 freedom fighters who took shelter on the wooden roof of the house by gun shots and charging bayonets. Ten others were also brutally killed by the Pakistani Army who took shelter inside the house of Sameen Begum. The remaining 17 others managed to flee.

Information about the attack on the freedom fighters by the Occupation Army reached the freedom fighters' camps at villages Abaipur, Allapur and other places where other freedom fighters were waiting. But the Occupation Forces left the place at once after killing the freedom fighters. Bodies of all 27 martyrs were collected from the house of Madhab Bhowmik

and Sameena Begum. They were buried in five graveyards at the north side of Kamanna High School on the bank of the river Kumul.
 Bodies of Momin, Kader, Sahidul, Saleman, Razzak, Wahed, Riyad, Ali Hossain, Alamgir, Moieb, Sariful, Alimuzzaman, Anisur, Tajul, Maniruzzaman, Masim, Razzak, Kawser, Salek, Aziz, Akter, Selim, Hossain, Rasul, Goljar, Gour and Adhir were buried in the graveyard. The body of Ranu Nessa, a housewife of the village was buried at her family graveyard. Ranga Nessa was not a freedom fighter. She went to the river 'Kumar' to collect water for her family. The Occupation Forces thought her to be a freedom fighter and they shot her to death.

Sameena Begum, 70, who witnessed the massacre on the day said that with bullet injury a freedom fighter had come together by crawling and wanted water for drinking. She came forward with a jar of water and when she reached near the injured freedom fighter, a 'ra-jakar' opened fire at her. As a result the freedom fighter died without drinking water.

Just after a month of the incident, the country was liberated from the clutches of the Occupation Pakistani Army.
 Local people named a club as 'Kamanna 27-Shaheed Smriti Sangha' to show respect to the martyred freedom fighters. Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed visited the spot in 1972. The then ministers Sohrab Hossain and Prof. Yusuf Ali also visited the place in 1973 and assured the people that the government would take necessary steps to make the place a tourist spot. Next some influential government officials also visited the spot. They also assured the people to develop the place, but in vain.

The 'Shaheed Minar' which was constructed long ago has become unfit for want of proper care. The condition of the graveyards is also very pathetic. Local people arrange befitting programmes at Kamanna every year on November 27 with their own means. But the government is quite indifferent.

Attack on Krishi Bank Distribution of agri-loan postponed in Porshuram

FENI, Nov 17: An attack by a group of unruly youths on the office of a Krishi Bank in Porshuram thana has forced the authorities to postpone the distribution of agri-loan in the area for an indefinite period, reports UNB.
 Bank sources said the youths attacked the bank and snatched away some documents when the authorities refused to give them loan against their alleged false documents.
 Witnesses said unruly youths assaulted manager Nirmol Narayan, broke telephone sets and damaged valuable official documents. They also reportedly threatened to kill six staff of the branch's loan inspection section.
 Meanwhile, the district administration has deployed ad-

ditional police in the bank and residences of its officials to ensure their security.
 AGM of the bank Nurul Islam visited the trouble-torn branch on Thursday and reopened its transaction under police protection.
 The AGM alleged that the police first refused to take up the GD when he personally went to the police station, but they later on accepted it when the TPO himself sent it to them.
 Bank sources said the authorities have indefinitely postponed disbursement of loan in the area following the incident.
 They said the Porshuram branch of the bank distributed Tk 60 lakh as agri-loan against the target Tk 50 lakh among 1,100 farmers in last four months.

Rackets smuggling out historic relics thru' hill tracts

BANDARBAN, Nov 17: International rackets have been stealing out historic relics from the country using the hill tracts as a transit route for quite a long time, reports APB.
 Police suspect these gangs have been smuggling out the relics to and from countries of the region — Myanmar, India, Thailand and China — carving out their passage through inaccessible forests.

As many as 40 statues of Lord Buddha had been stolen away from different places of the district back in 1981.
 These could not be traced out during the last 15 years.
 Local sources say the hills are a safe haven for smuggling as Bangladesh's 273-kilometre border with Myanmar has not yet been surveyed. As a result, according to hillwatchers, the area remains out of full control of the law-enforcing agencies.
 Of late, acting on a tip-off, Bandarban police last Saturday recovered a 4-kilogramme white-marble statue of Buddha from Kayang Baita in Bandarban Pourashava area.
 This recovery is now being used as a clue for search for the syndicate of smugglers, a police official, who wanted not to be named.
 Police also arrested five suspects, including a foreign national named Subash Chandra Sharma who with a two months tourist visa entered into Bangladesh through the hill border last month.
 The remaining four are Bangladeshi citizens, two of whom are tribals and two residents of Dhaka. During the raid on the den, police sources said, there was a Myanmar citizen inside a room, who, however, managed to escape.
 They said smuggling was also going on along Bilaichhari border in Rangamati hill district. Opium was also being cultivated in remote frontier areas by the underworld denizens. It was alleged.
 UNB reports from Natore: Bangladesh Rifles of 35 battalion in a raid on Thursday recovered a touchstone idol weighing about 20 kg from a house at Halsha village in Sadar thana here.
 Acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Abdur Rahman and seized the valuable idol worth about Taka one crore.
 Later the statue was deposited with the district treasury.



COMILLA: Prof. Mohammad Ali Ashraf, MP, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Finance distributing loan application for crop loan. The distribution ceremony was arranged recently at a meeting by Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Badarpur branch at Dullai Nawabpur in Chandina. M. G. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Deputy General Manager-in-charge of Comilla region and manager of the branch are also seen in the picture. — Star photo.

Crime rate up in Mymensingh dist

MYMENSINGH, Nov 17: Dacoity, robbery, theft, snatching, gambling and all sorts of anti-social activities have increased in the district due to deterioration of law and order since the beginning of the last month.
 A group of miscreants raided a shop of Winner Par area in the sadar thana and looted away goods worth about Taka One lakh last month.
 A dacoity was committed at the house of Sahabuddin of village Daulatpur in Garfargaon thana last month.
 The dacoits looted all belongings worth Taka Two lakh from eight houses of a family of village Purura in Bhaluka thana.
 A group of dacoits looted away cash and valuables

worth about Taka One lakh from the house of Abdul Awal of village Chandpur in Bhaluka thana last month.
 A dacoity was committed at village Barbara in Garfargaon thana last month. The dacoits looted houses of nine families and took away cash and goods worth about Taka One lakh.
 Two dacoities were also committed in Garfargaon and Bhaluka thana last month.
 The dacoits raided the houses of Mafiz Master of Sayani Rasulpur village in Garfargaon thana and decamped with cash and valuables worth about Taka 50 thousand.
 The dacoits looted away cash and goods from the house of Altafuddin of Randia village in Bhaluka thana.

Some miscreants took away Taka 1,000 from Badiazaman, an employee of AM Collage by feeding poisonous biscuits at a bus stand when she was going towards Dhaka last month.
 The miscreants snatched away gold ornaments worth about Taka 20 thousand by stabbing a housewife in her chest on the staircase of the first floor of Kazi Villa of Gulki Bari Road of the town while she was getting down last month.
 A tenant of a rented house at Bhatikeshar area of the district town took away cash and goods worth over Taka One lakh after feeding poisonous breakfast to all the seven members of the family of the owner. They also live in the same house last month. The seven members were

admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in an unconscious state.
 Several incidents of theft and snatching were also reported in the last month.
 According to local people sources such incidents are increasing in the district alarming.
 The number of drug addicts are increasing in the district town and others parts rapidly.
 Hira Rabi Das, 48, of the town's Sembari Road allegedly died from taking liquor last month and Manik Lal Rabi Das also died last month for the same reason.
 Besides, gambling is going on unabated in various places of the district.

Pests threaten 'Aman' farming

'Aman' farming has been facing a set-back in different districts due to massive pest attack on several thousand acres of land, reports agencies.
 UNB reports from Natore: A vast tract of 'Aman' crop lands in 16 northern districts have been attacked by pests intensifying the miseries of the farmers.
 According to a source, different pests and bacterial disease have attacked the standing crops of BR-11 (Aman) variety on about 2.5 lakh hectares of land in the region.
 The agricultural experts identified the bacterial disease as Bacterial Leaf Blight, which first attacks young leaves of the paddy. As a result, the green leaves of the plant lose chlorophyll and after a few days they turn yellowish and then develop several black spots.
 The bacterial disease is also known as 'Tiger Spot' disease and seeds, air and grasshoppers are the main carriers of the disease.
 The block supervisors, who are working in the pest infested fields, told that they do not know the name of the small pests which are causing the havoc on thousands of hectares of 'Aman' field, but they confirmed that there is a microscopic feeler of the pests.

AED of Rajshahi division sources said necessary measures have been taken to control the pest-attack which intensified due to stagnant water caused by recent flood and heavy rainfall.
 According to an unofficial survey, about 25 to 30 per cent standing 'Aman' paddy of different districts have been damaged by the pest-attack.
 Another source said about six lakh hectares of land had been brought under 'Aman' cultivation in 16 northern districts and on an average, 40 per cent of the paddy have been attacked by pests causing grave concern among the farmers.
 Another report from Comilla adds, pests have so far attacked on 1,158 hectares of land in the district creating panic among the farmers.
 The worst affected thana is Daudkandi where crops on 78 hectares of land have been damaged. But the pest, including pamri, majra, shishkata, leda and pata morano, have been controlled by spraying pesticides on the fields, AED sources said.

A report from Kishoreganj says: 'Aman' farming is facing a set-back in the district due to massive pest attack on 10,357 acres of land.
 Official sources said about 1,36,751 acres of land have been brought under 'Aman' cultivation in 10 thanas. The local farmers apprehended that the target of 'Aman' cultivation may not be achieved due to the menace.
 The farmers alleged that the situation aggravated further in absence of timely measures including spraying of pesticides by agriculture department.
 They said new fields are being attacked by pests every day adding that the insecticides available in the local markets are adulterated.
 The farmers urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps to combat the pest-attack.
 APB reports from Patuakhali: Standing 'Aman' crops on a total of 12,000 hectares of land have been attacked by pests in the southern districts.
 Crops worth about Tk 12 crore have been lost to seven types of pests which have damaged crops in different parts of the southern zone in the last few weeks.
 The pests which have ravaged crops in the region are pamri, majra, leda, golphami, chungi, patamorano and sabujpata grasshoppers.
 Most of the crops in Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Rajbari, Faridpur, Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts have been attacked by Pamri and Majra pests.
 Crops on 997 hectares of land have been attacked by pests in Pirojpur district alone. In Jhalakati district, crops on

355 hectares of land have come under pest-attack.
 In Patuakhali district, 3,500 hectares of land have been attacked by pests while crops on 4,020 hectares of land in Barguna district have been damaged.
 In Bhola district, crops on some 2,050 hectares of land have been ravaged by pests, while crops on 350 hectares of land in Rajbari district have been damaged.
 Crops on 85 hectares of land have come under pest attack in Faridpur, while crops on 436 hectares of land in Barisal have been ravaged.
 Of the total affected area, 511 hectares of land have been attacked by Pamri, 8,960 hectares by Majra pests, 1,165 hectares by Leda pests, 830 hectares by Sabujpata grasshoppers, 80 hectares by Golphami and 225 hectares by Patamorano pests.
 Madaripur, Gopalganj and Sherpur districts are still free from pest-attack in Natore.

Money-lenders harassing farmers in N-dists

NAOAGAN, Nov 17: The farmers in 16 northern districts are being harassed by the money-lenders who are taking advantage of the post-flood crisis in the rural areas, reports UNB.
 The farmers who turned almost pauper due to the devastation caused by the prolonged and unusual flood this year have to depend on these money-lenders for their capital of the next cultivation.
 The farmers said they are being deprived of agriculture loan from the formal sectors like Krishi Bank and other commercial banks due to various complexities.
 The money-lenders have been charging high rate of interest for the money they are providing to the farmers at the time of need.

Villagers said the rate of interest is so high that it reach even 30 to 50 per cent per month.
 The growers are busy now in preparing their land for cultivation with the recession of flood waters to overcome the heavy losses they incurred due to the flood.
 They are in desperate need of the capital to buy seedlings, fertilisers and other inputs, said the farmers. They have no other alternative but to go to the money-lenders.
 They said they are to surrender the lion share of their produce in advance to the men from whom they borrowed money.
 Local people have urged the government to ensure bank loan to the flood-hit farmers on simple terms and without any complex formalities.

Pulse farming programme on 4,515 hectares in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 17: A total of 4,515 hectares of land have been brought under pulse cultivation in 13 thanas of the district during the current winter season, reports UNB.
 The thanas are Hossainpur, Sadar, Pakundia, Katiadi, Karimganj, Tarail, Itna, Mitamin, Nikli, Austagram, Bajitpur, Kullarchar and Bhairab.
 According to Agriculture Extension Department, of the total land, 1,000 hectares of land have been brought under 'lentil', 4,000 hectares under 'chola', 1,000 hectares under 'mashkali', 400 hectares under 'moog', 200 hectares under 'moor', 1500 hectares under 'khesari' and 15 hectares under 'ararhar' farming.
 The production target has been fixed at 780 mts of lentil, 370 mts of 'chola', 750 mts of 'mashkali', 270 mts of 'moog', 150 mts of 'moor', 1140 mts of 'khesari' and 10 mts of 'ararhar'.
 Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation will ensure the supply of high yielding variety seeds, fertiliser, insecticides, power pumps and other necessary inputs at fair prices among the cultivators to make the programme a success.
 Meanwhile, another scheme has been undertaken to bring 3,600 hectares of land here under winter vegetable cultivation in the ongoing 'Rabi' season.
 Of the land, nearly 600 hectares will be cultivated in Hossainpur and sadar each, 700 hectares in Pakundia, 650 hectares in Katiadi, 350 hectares in Karimganj, 450 hectares in Tarail, 100 hectares each in Itna and Nikli, 500 hectares in Mitamin, 400 hectares each in Austagram, Bajitpur and Kullarchar and 300 hectares in Bhairab thanas.
 Besides, Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks already started distributing agriculture loan among the farmers.
 With the successful implementation of the scheme it is expected that about 76,500 mts of vegetables will be produced in the district.



PABNA:Reconstruction work of roads under Food for Works Programme progressing. — Star photo.