News snaps

Man with one kg heroin held

RANGAMATI, Jan 9: Army intelligence team in a drive, arrested a man along with one kg heroin worth about Tk 1 crore in Kathaltoli area in Sadar

Acting on a tip, the DFI team arrested M Alam, 35, with the heroin from

a house in the area. They handed over Alam and deposited the heroin to

Clash leaves 20 hurt

village in Sadar upazila left 20 people injured on Saturday, reports UNB.

NILPHAMARI, Jan 9: A clash between two rival groups at Motir Chapra

Police said the clash ensued when one group led by Abu Bakar swooped

on Ashraf Ali as he was tilling the disputed land. There was a longstanding

dispute between them over the plot of land. Ten of the injured Daulatun

Nesa, 50, Abu Bakar, 40, Abul Hossain, 35, Azizer Rahman, 60, Wahidul

Islam, 35, Pallab, 25, Salam, 22, Badiuzzaman, 22, Helaluddin, 22, and

Abu Salek, 32, were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Daulatun Nesa was later

shifted to Rangpur Medical College following the deterioration of her condition. Both groups filed cases against each other with the police.

Tragic

village in Sadar upazila of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

morning. The tragic news cast a deep gloom over the village.

NILPHAMARI, Jan 9: A newborn baby was eaten by a dog at Polashbari

Locals said the dog entered broken house of rickshaw puller Dulal

Hossain and picked up his newborn baby on Thursday night and ate it

partially. The decomposed body was found near his house on the following

upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

the Narcotics Control Department. A case was filed.

has also a sweeter side. As a bone-

The cakes include vapa pitha,

culture to entertain guests with

Of the cakes, vapa pitha is the

most popular one as its preparation

process has quite been easy and less

time-consuming. It even hits city

streets. Faridpur town is not an

Some women, on the other hand,

have taken this cake-making as

profession to earn living. Poor

women prepare vapa pitha on the

footpaths and earn by selling to

busy making vapa pitha at different

parts of the town and selling to the

customers of all classes who keep

At least 30 women can be found

pithas when they visit relatives.

and date juice.

exception.

pitha and ruti pitha.

Steps to promote cattle, poultry farming

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 9: The District Livestock Department (DLD) has taken up a massive programme for promoting cattle and poultry farming.

The programme styled "Entrepreneur Development Project" is being implemented in six upazilas. Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has allocated fund to distribute loans among eight such projects under this programme

According to the DLD sources, a committee has been constituted with District Livestock Officer, District Agriculture Officer and manager of the local branch of BKB to monitor the loan distribution situation among the entrepreneurs.

Each entrepreneur of poultry and cattle farm under the said projects will get the highest amount of Taka 2 lakh for cattle farming, Taka One lakh for poultry farming, Taka 75 thousand for processing of cattle and Taka 40 thousand for egg

DLD sources have mentioned that such programme of selfemployment and poverty alleviation creates enthusiasm among the interested entrepreneurs. Loans under this programme is being distributed within three years term and interest-free. In the first phase, recovery rate is 70 to 80 per cent the official source added.

In the meantime a total of 273 entrepreneurs got loans and they will receive loans every three years until they become self-dependent.

DLD will organise a 10-day long training programme for the entrepreneurs after completion of loan distribution.

However, the District Livestock Department (DLD) has been suffering from acute shortage of manpower to look after the livestock sector. There are only one livestock physician at the district office and one each in upazila level. Only one field officer is performing the duties for each two or three unions

Besides this, transportation and communication problems are also prevailing in district and upazila

Production and growth of cattle and poultry birds are yet to increase. This is because of lack of necessary publicity and motivation programme.

According to the official sources, only one-third of the total demand of meat are being met from the local source. Poultry birds and cattle are being brought from other districts and even from the neighbouring state of India to meet the huge

Meanwhile, section of dishonest traders bring cattles through illegal way. Crises of meat in the local markets become serious when smooth communication is disrupted

demand of meat.

 $\hbox{Cricket is a popular game both in rural and urban areas. Some rural young sters in Magura district enjoying the game of cricket in a typical manner. \\ --- Star photo$

Gaibandha DIARY

Rabi crop farming programme

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Jan 9: An exten-

sive Rabi crop cultivation programme has been undertaken in the district.

programme, high Under the yielding variety (HYV) of paddy and wheat will be cultivated on 94,000 hectares and 10,000 hectares of lands respectively. Besides, vegetables will be cultivated on 4,600 hectares of land. Meanwhile, BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture Extension Corporation) has already distributed seeds. On the other hand, the government has allocated 1.27 lakh taka for agriculture rehabilitation programme in the district. The money will be disbursed among 589 farmers who sustained loss during last year's flood.

Construction works of schools, colleges progressing

Construction works of 47 academic buildings costing 7.88 crore taka of different educational institutions in the district have been going

Under the programme buildings of seven colleges, 22 secondary schools, six madrasha (religious institutions), and 12 government primary schools are being constructed. According to official sources, the works will be completed by May this year.

Crushing season of Rangpur Sugar Mills begins

Crushing season of Rangpur Sugar Mills at Mohimaganj under the district began recently.

90,000 tons of sugarcane are expected to be crushed this season. Sugar recovery rate has been fixed at 7.40 per cent. Sugarcane was cultivated on 11,610 acres of land in the mill zone area. However, as huge quantities of sugarcane are being crushed in power crushers in the mill zone area, the factory may face shortage of sugarcane supply.

Housewife beaten to death

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at village Bogdaha under Gobindaganj upazila recently.

The housewife was identified as Rowshan Ar, 25. According to neighbours, Mohammed Ali, the husband, killed her following an altercation. Neighbours also said Ali often tortured her and put pressure on her to bring dowry from her parents house. Ali went into hiding. A case was filed in this connection

Drug addicts rising

drugitems

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: The number of drug addicts has been increasing in the northern districts, including Sirajganj, in an alarming proportion due to the inaction of law enforcers,

reports UNB. The districts are Pabna, Natore, Bogra, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Rangpur,

Lalmonirhat, Joypur and Dinajpur. According to an official source, a good number of people, especially the youths and the laborers, have

most districts and upazila headquarters apart from remote rural areas. Various criminal acts like theft.

dacoity and snatching are also on rise as the authorities are not taking necessary measures against the drug addicts, the source added.

Taking the advantage, many of

Cold wave

makes

life miserable

From Our Correspondent

Snatching away

the drug addicts now collect tolls

from the shopkeepers in order to buy

connivance of law enforcers are

smuggling various drugs into the

country from neighbouring India

through different points at border-

The drugs, including heroin,

ganja, phensidyl and low quality

Indian liquor, are being carried to

the districts of Pabna and Bogra, and

then supplied to the drug agents in

By giving toll to corrupt officials,

drug traders engage a section of

misguided youths and widows to sell

Some dishonest traders with the

various districts.

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 9: Severe cold wave coming from the north has made lives of the dwellers of Srimongal and Moulvibazar town miserable. The 7-day long cold wave has almost halted normal life in

Moulvibazar and Srimongal towns. According to the official sources the minimum temperature was 7.90 degrees Celsius at Srimongal on Sunday. It was 8.1 degrees Celsius on Saturday. The distressed people are the worst sufferers. The situation worsens after mid-day and turns unbearable in the evening. Since Thursday, fog engulfs the town from 11.30 am to 12 pm. Vehicles ply along the streets with their headlights on. The sun appears for a while at about 1 pm, but it soon disappears. People are crowding the winter garment shops. The poor people are trying to combat this bitter cold wave through heat generated by burning heaps of straws and old papers.

of accused: 7 arrested in Mymensingh From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Jan 9: Police

arrested seven people on Monday for snatching away an accused and injuring a police sub-inspector.

The arrested were identified as Golam Hossain, Abdur Rashid, Aftab Uddin, Aynul Haq, Monayem, Shahinur and Habib.

Police said when SI Makim Ali on Sunday was taking Riyad, local JCD leader, to police station in Gouripur upazila supporters of Riyad attacked the SI and snatched away the arrested. Following the incident police raided the area and arrested the seven. Riyad, however, could not



Shah Md Nurul Alam, president and managing director of South East Bank Ltd exchanging views with the members of Moulvibazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCC&I) recently at its office in Moulvibazar. ---Star photo

Other side of winter



It's pitha time: People savour vapa pitha, a traditional cake made of rice flour and molasses, on a footpath in Faridpur town.

--Star photo

making the cake.

Besides, some sweetmeat shops sell pithas of different kinds these

When interviewed a widow,

By selling the cake she has been

six members.

Rokeya Begum, 50, wife of late Golap Khan of Ambikapur area on the outskirts of the town, told this correspondent that for the last 20 vears she has been making vapa pitha on the foot-path on the Thana Road in the town.

She sells 100 to 150 pieces of the pitha at the rate of Tk 2 each everyday. She said each of the vapa pitha she is making weighs 90 to 100

earns Tk 60 to Tk 70 every day.

Like Rokeya many people, mostly women, sell traditional cakes on

grams. Rokeya Begum said she

footpaths in the town.

Boro output target fixed at 8.75 lakh tons in Sylhet

SYLHET, Jan 9: An intensive programme has been taken up to bring about 3.50 lakh hectares of land under Boro cultivation in four districts of the division this year with an output target of 8.75 lakh tons of paddy, reports UNB.

Agriculture Department sources said some 1.65-lakh hectares of land would be brought under the cultivation in Sunamgani district while 88,600 hectares in Habiganj, 51,000 hectares in Sylhet and 35,600 hectares in Moulvibazar

duction is 4.4 lakh tons in Sunamganj, 2.57 lakh tons in Habiganj, 1.19 lakh tons in Sylhet and 95,600 tons in Moulvibazar districts, the sources added. It is the proper time for preparing

The district-wise target of pro-

seedbeds, planting seedlings and harvesting will begin from mid-October, official sources said. However, the farmers in the

districts of Sunamganj and Habiganj could not yet start planting

Nine persons were killed on

Saturday and Sunday in separate

road accidents in Kushtia, Dinajpur

and Magura districts, reports UNB.

Two people, including a teacher of Kushtia Zilla School, were killed

in separate road accidents in

Local people said Moulvi Abul

Hossain, 55, Arabic teacher of the

school, was run over by a truck in

front of local Circuit House while

shaw-van passenger was crushed

under the wheels of a truck after he

fell down from the van. He was hit

by a motorcycle at Chourhash on

Kushtia-Jhenidah Road at about

Agitated people damaged the truck after the accident. Later on,

police recovered the body and sent it

to hospital for autopsy. The vehicle

was seized, but its driver managed to

Two people were killed and eight

others critically injured when a

truck overturned at Nawoapara on

Dinajpur-Hilly Road in Dinajpur

Police said Mosiruddin, 75,

former headmaster of a local sec-

district on Sunday.

Besides, an unidentified rick-

going to mosque for Fazr prayers.

Kushtia district on Sunday.

seedlings due to stagnant water in their lowlands, the sources added.

Some farmers have been preparing seedbeds at their highlands while some waiting to prepare seedbeds after clearing off weeds from their lands.

All the farmers of Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj are now very busy to prepare their lands for Boro cultiva-

demand for seeds is increasing day by day as the farmers could not preserve the same due to flood that caused havoc to their crops last year. Meanwhile, the center sold about 1,000 tons of Boro seeds among the

Seed sales centers here said the

Some 600 tons of seeds out of 700 tons sanctioned for the farmers in Sunamganj district has already been sold.

farmers this year.

Another report from Bogra says: A scheme has been taken up to bring over 12.50 lakh hectares of land under Irri-Boro farming in 16

Road mishaps claim 9

lives in three dists

Rahman, 40, were crushed under

the wheels of the truck when it

The injured, who were travelling

the truck, were identified as

Shakil, 35, Mangol Ray, 40, Rabi

Urao, 35, Krishnakanto, 28, Chand

Ray, 35, Israil, 50, and Enamul

Health Complex. Of them, Shakil

was later shifted to Rangpur Medi-

cal College Hospital in a critical

others wounded in separate road

accidents in three districts on

Mollah of Vatoail village in Shalikha

upazila, died on the spot when a

truck dashed his bike on Shalikha-

In another accident, two bicycle riders Asad, 20, and Hero, 25, were

seriously injured when a truck

knocked them down at Ramnagar

on Magura-Kamarkhali road on

Sunday. Another report from

Jhalakati adds: A little girl, Manjuri

Begum, 12, was crushed under the

wheels of a bus on Amua-Kathalia

Magura Road on Sunday morning.

Saturday and Sunday.

Five people were killed and 22

Police said a motorcyclist, Tipu

They were admitted to Hilly

turned turtle at about 3 pm.

Meer, 30.

condition.

ondary school, and Monibar Road at 10.30 am on Sunday.

districts of Raishahi division in the current season.

According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), the production target has been fixed at 37.26,700 metric tons of paddy.

Meanwhile, preparation for seedbeds has already been completed and transplantation would begin from the middle of the current month, AED sources said.

But Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation failed to supply adequate quantity of seeds to the farmers who at last managed their own to make the scheme a

The farmers alleged that some dishonest traders have been trying to create artificial scarcity of much needed urea fertilisers in the market to earn windfall profit. They, meantime, also enhanced the price of a bag of urea by Tk 20/30.

Meanwhile, three people were

Police said Shilpi Begum, 25, and

her sister-in-law Jothsna, 20, of

Kakanpur village in Basail upazila

were killed and four others injured

when a truck dashed their tempo on

Tangail-Basail Road on Saturday

to sadar hospital while two others

sent to Dhaka.

Saturday night.

injured in the accident

Two of the injured were admitted

A head-on-collision between two

Besides, a trucker slipped and

buses left 11 people wounded at

Khudirampur village in Sadar

drowned into the river Jamuna

when a bus hit his stationary truck

on Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge on

Five bus passengers were also

upazila on Saturday evening.

killed and 20 others injured in three

separate accidents in Tangail dis-

An advocacy workshop on Reproductive Health and Gender Issues was arranged recently by BCC unit, Cox's Bazar for the local journalists. Mohammad Faruk, divisional director of the Family Planning Department, Chittagong speaking on the occasion as the chief guest.

Waz Mahfil

LAXMIPUR, Jan 9: A three-day Waz Mahfil (religious discussion) will begin on Thursday at Hyderganj Eidgah Maidan in the district to mark the 36th 'Isale Sawab Mahfil' of Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Sayeed Taher Ahmed Zabiri Al Madani, reports BSS.

Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Sayeed Anwar Hossain Taher Zabiri Al Madani, Khatib of Andarkilla Jam-e-Masjid in Chittagong, will preside over the Waz Mahfil. Renowned Islamic thinkers and scholars will address the Mahfil

Girl raped MANIKGANJ, Jan 9: A seven-year-old girl was violated by a youngster at

village Bishnupur in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday, reports UNB. Police said Rafiq, 20, son of Pannu Choukidar, took the girl to a paddy field and violated her. The victim was rushed to the Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Police, however, arrested the alleged rapist and sent him to jail.

Grants for flood victims

RAJSHAHI, Jan 9: The Government has sanctioned Tk 64 lakh as house building grants for rehabilitation of 6,400 flood-affected families in the district, reports UNB.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque distributed Tk 16.57 lakh among 1,657 families in separate functions at Godagari Upazila Parishad, Kadam Shahar High School and Damkara High School premises in Paba upazila on Monday. Each family got Tk 1000. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder was also present on the occasion, said an official handout.

Road mishap kills two

SATKHIRA, Jan 9: Two people were killed and 10 others injured seriously in a road accident at Brojabox in Kalaroa upazila on Satkhira-Jessore road Sunday, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Arshad Ali Molla, 84, of village Raghunathpur and Abdul Jabbar, 35, of Buckxa village in same upazila. Witnesses said the tragic mishap took place when the driver of a Jessorebound passenger pick up van lost its control at the point. Local people seized the vehicle but the driver managed to escape. Some of the injured were sent to Sadar and Kalaroa hospitals. A case was filed.

Int'l seminar on paddy

MYMENSINGH, Jan 9: An international seminar on 'Introduction of Hybrid Paddy in Bangladesh' was held at the Bangladesh Agriculture University here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Chairman of the Social Science Department of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Mahbub Hossain presented a paper on the subject. BAU Vice-chancellor Prof M Anwarul Islam was the chief guest in the seminar. Dean of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology Faculty Dr WH Jaim presided over.

Police outpost attacked

JHALALKATHI, Jan 9: A group of local youths attacked a police outpost of the town here Sunday in a bid to free their leader who was arrested for snatching a plaintiff, reports UNB.

Police said Hafiz, president of Chandkathi ward BCL unit, and his men abducted the plaintiff of a case Manoj Kumar Halder from near the police outpost. They also assaulted two plainclothes cops Bazlul and Abu Żarfar when they tried to resist them. Later police managed to arrest Hafiz. Hearing the news his supporters swooped on the police outpost but police through baton charge foiled their bid to snatch Hafiz. Police said Hafiz was wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases.

Separate incidents kill seven in Bogra

BOGRA, Jan 9: Seven people were killed and 10 injured in separate incidents here during the last week, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said three

people were killed and 10 injured in a bus-tempo collision on Kagoil-Bogra road, 30 km from the town on Dec 25.

Two of the deceased were identified as Abdus Salam, 50, and Abdur Rashid Sardar, 34 and the identity of another youth could not be known.

On Dec 26 a little girl identified as Rehana, 5, was run over by a baby taxi near the Bogra Railway Station. On December 31, a boy identified as Shahin, 7, was crushed under the

wheels of a speeding bus at Mathpara on Dhunat-Sherpur Meanwhile, police on Dec 26 recovered the beheaded body of an unidentified young woman from a

canal at Muradpur village in

Nandigram upazila. Later the

severed head of the victim was

recovered from a field in Sherpur

In yet another incident Jahanara, wife of Babu Munshi of village Boitha Bhanga in Gabtali upazila was beaten to death by her in-laws

Separate cases were filed with the police. Another report from Kishoreganj says that assailants murdered

Khokan Mia, 22, of Kamalpur village in Bhairab upazila on Dec 24. Police said the gang at dead of night called out Khokan from his house, they took him to a solitary

place and tortured him to death. Police on the following morning recovered the body from a nearby ditch and sent it to the morgue for

Locals said Khokan once was the activist of a terrorist gang. A case was filed.

Meanwhile, police arrested 22 youths including a senior JCD leader from the town on charge of misbehaviour on the 31st night.

Police said five of them were

drunk. All the arrested were later on released after signing bonds.

Another report says that armed terrorist Jony was arrested on the night of December 29 while trying to abduct a sex worker at gunpoint. Police also recovered a revolver from his grip.

A large number of unruly youths celebrated the 31st night in Barisal with firing hundreds of gunshots, blasting crackers and cocktails

Notorious terrorists fired hundreds of gunshots in the sky creating panic among the town dwellers,

Some youngsters openly took alcohol on the streets and teased others. Four terrorist groups also arranged separate motor bike procession brandishing arms in the

Police were seen as silent specta



A new branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has been inaugurated by Muzibur Rahman Khan, deputy managing director of the bank recently at Khaserhat Bazaar under Kalkini upazila in Madaripur district.