

Steps to promote cattle, poultry farming

Other side of winter

**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



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Gaibandha

DIARY

Rabi crop farming programme

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Jan 9: An extensive Rabi crop cultivation programme has been undertaken in the district.

Under the programme, high 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 on.

Under the programme buildings of seven colleges, 22 secondary schools, six madrasah (religious institutions), and 12 government primary schools are being constructed. According to office 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.

Taka 40 thousand for egg production as loan.

DLD sources have mentioned that such programme of self-employment 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 offices.

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 demand of meat.

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



Cricket is a popular game both in rural and urban areas. Some rural youngsters in Magura district enjoying the game of cricket in a typical manner.

Drug addicts rising

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 become addicted to various drugs in 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

Cold wave makes life miserable

From Our Correspondent

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.

Snatching away of accused: 7 arrested in Mymensingh



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FARIDPUR, Jan 9: The winter has also a sweeter side. As a bone-chilling cold wave sweeps across the country, many households especially in rural areas in the district as elsewhere wear festive look with females preparing various kinds of delicious pitha-- the traditional cakes made of rice flour molasses and date juice.

The cakes include vapa pitha, bhirjaina pitha, samai pitha, kata pitha, mukshala pitha, patishapta pitha, pakan pitha, kul pitha, chitai pitha and ruti pitha.

People entertain guests with pithas during the winter. It is a tradition and a part of Bengalee culture to entertain guests with pithas when they visit relatives.

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 exception.

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 customers.

At least 30 women can be found busy making vapa pitha at different parts of the town and selling to the customers of all

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 Sunamganj district while 88,600 hectares in Habiganj, 51,000 hectares in Sylhet and 35,600 hectares in Moulvibazar districts.

The district-wise target of production 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 seedbeds, planting seedlings and harvesting will begin from mid-October, official sources said.

However, the farmers in the

Road mishaps claim 9 lives in three dists

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 Kushtia district on Sunday.

Local people said Mouli Abul Hossain, 55, Arabic teacher of the school, was run over by a truck in front of local Circuit House while going to mosque for Fajr prayers.

Besides, an unidentified rickshaw-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 11.30 am.

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 escape.

Two people were killed and eight others critically injured when a truck overturned at Nawopara on Dinajpur-Hilly Road in Dinajpur district on Sunday.

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 Road.

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

From Abdul Matin Fakir



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

classes who keep waiting surrounding the women making the cake.

Besides, some sweetmeat shops sell pithas of different kinds these days.

When interviewed a widow, 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 years she has been making vapa pitha on the foot-path on the Thana Road in the town.

By selling the cake she has been maintaining her family consisting of six members.

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 grams. Rokeya Begum said she earns Tk 60 to Tk 70 every day.

Like Rokeya many people, mostly women, sell traditional cakes on footpaths in the town.

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 cultivation.

Seed sales centers here said the 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 farmers this year.

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

Another report from Bogra says: A scheme has been taken

Police said Mosiruddin, 75, former headmaster of a local secondary school, and Monibar Rahman, 40, were crushed under the wheels of the truck when it turned turtle at about 3 pm.

The injured, who were traveling by the truck, were identified as Shakil, 35, Mangol Ray, 40, Rabi Urao, 35, Krishnakanto, 28, Chand Ray, 35, Israel, 50, and Enamul Meer, 30.

They were admitted to Hilly Health Complex. Of them, Shakil was later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Five people were killed and 22 others wounded in separate road accidents in three districts on Saturday and Sunday.

Police said a motorcyclist, Tipu Mollah of Vatoail village in Shalikhra upazila, died on the spot when a truck dashed his bike on Shalikhra-Magura Road on Sunday morning.

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,

Separate incidents kill seven in Bogra

upazila on Dec 30.

In yet another incident Jahanara, wife of Babu Munshi of village Boitha Bhanga in Gabtali upazila was beaten to death by her in-laws on Dec 26.

Separate cases were filed with the police.

Another report from Kishoreganj says that assailants murdered Khokon Mia, 22, of Kamalpur village in Bhairab upazila on Dec 24.

Police said the gang at dead of night called out Khokon 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 autopsy.

Locals said Khokon 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.

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 upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

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 the Narcotics Control Department. A case was filed.

Clash leaves 20 hurt

NILPHAMARI, Jan 9: A clash between two rival groups at Motir Chapra village in Sadar upazila left 20 people injured on Saturday, reports UNB.

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 Daulatan Nesa, 50, Abu Bakar, 40, Abul Hossain, 35, Aziz Rahman, 60, Wahidul Islam, 35, Pallab, 25, Salam, 22, Badiuzzaman, 22, Helaluddin, 22, and Abu Salek, 32, were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Daulatan 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

NILPHAMARI, Jan 9: A newborn baby was eaten by a dog at Polashbari village in Sadar upazila of the district on Thursday, reports UNB.

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



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 Choudidar, 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 Buckkha village in same upazila. Witnesses said the tragic mishap took place when the driver of a Jessore-bound 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 Chandikati 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 Bazul and Abu Zarfar 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.



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.

Star photo