

National

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 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 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 cattles through illegal way. Crises of meat in the local markets become serious when smooth communication is disrupted.

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

districts of Sunamganj and Habiganj could not yet start planting 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 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

up to bring over 12.50 lakh

hectares of land under Irri-Boro farming in 16 districts of Rajshahi division in the current year.

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 success.

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.

Other side of winter

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.

--Star photo



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.

---Star photo

Gaibandh DIARY

Rabi crop farming programme

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDH, 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 take 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 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.

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.

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.

Snatching away 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 be arrested.

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 Abu Hossain, 55, Arabic teacher of the school, was run over by a truck in front of local Circuit House while going to mosque for Fazr 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 Chourash 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 Nawapara on Dinajpur-Hilly Road in Dinajpur district on Sunday.

Another report from Jhalakati adds: A little girl,

upazila on Dec 30.

In yet another incident

Jahanara, wife of Babu Munshi of village Boitha Bhanga in Gobtali 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 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, 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 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 recovered the body from a field in Sherpur.

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