



Students of Bholajan High School in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila stage a sit-in for over two hours on the Thakurgaon-Baladangi Road yesterday protesting assault on a teacher of the school by the son of the local Upazila Parishad member a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

# 5 more feared infected with anthrax in Kushtia

## Suspected patient hospitalised in Panchagarh

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least five more people were feared infected with anthrax in Kushtia yesterday, while a man was hospitalised with anthrax symptoms in Panchagarh on Friday night.

With yesterday's five, the total number of infected people rose to 42 in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia, reports our correspondent.

Earlier, on Thursday, 21 people contacted anthrax at the same Bilgathua village and on the day before 16 were attacked with the disease first at Dharmadaha village.

All the patients are now undergoing treatment at

upazila health complex and home.

Doctors at the health complex said they are still waiting for experts' opinion on the blood and skin samples sent to the capita city.

Jatindra Chandra Roy, civil surgeon of Kushtia said, "We are actually hospitalising people just on the basis symptoms of the disease and giving them initial treatment".

According to upazila health complex sources, most of the patients prefer to take treatment at their home to avoid 'embarrassment'.

"Our medical teams have opened camps at villages and are giving treatment to the

suspected patients," Dr. Saleh Ahmed, upazila medical officer, Daulatpur said.

According to the villagers, a few cattle heads at Dharmadaha and adjacent villages of Bilgathua and Krishnapur caught an 'unknown' disease 10-15 days ago. Villagers slaughtered those and consumed the meat.

In Panchagarh, a suspected anthrax patient at bordering village Birpara under Sadar upazila was admitted to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital on Friday night, reports our

Thakurgaon correspondent. Resident Medical Officer at

Panchagarh Sadar Hospital Baharam Ali told this correspondent that Shahidul Islam, 40, might have been infected with anthrax.

For confirmation, we will send blood and skin sample to Dhaka for test, he said.

Shahidul Islam told reporters at the hospital that on 27 August he bought 30Kg Indian beef at half price for his daughter's wedding ceremony.

He himself cooked the meat and the next day several boils appeared in his hands and legs.

As they were developing fast I took treatment locally, Shahidul said.

# Housewife beaten to death, two commit 'suicide'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A housewife was beaten to death while two others allegedly committed suicide in three places in the last three days.

A housewife was beaten to death in Satkhira on Friday allegedly by husband at village Napitkhali in Shyamnagar upazila as she tried to resist his husband's second marriage, reports our correspondent.

Quoting locals police said victim Rehana Khatun, 30, daughter of Rahim Baksa Gazi of Koiria in Khulna district was married to Rafiqul Islam, son of Nesar Ali Gazi of village Napitkhali about 9 years ago.

Recently Rafiqul, a father

of 3, wanted to marry another woman. As Rehana vehemently resisted the bid, he beat her mercilessly with a bamboo stick killing her on the spot.

In Chuadanga, a housewife allegedly committed suicide on Wednesday as her husband used to torture her on and often for dowry.

Police said Nasrin Khatun, 22, committed suicide by taking poison at Protappur village in Jibonnagar upazila of the district.

Nasrin, daughter of Sakher Ali of Kana under Sadar upazila was married to Lokman Ali, son of Abdus Sattar of Protappur in Jibonnagar upazila two years ago.

Soon after the marriage,

Lokman demanded Tk 75,000 from his wife as dowry.

Seeing no other way, Nasrin's father Sakher, a poor farmer, gave Lokman three cows. Lokman sold the cows for Tk 49,500. Recently, he again demanded Tk 1 lakh from Nasrin's father and he started to press Nasrin to bring the money.

"My daughter told me that she had no alternative to committing 'suicide' if I fail to give the money as the torture by Lokman was turning unbearable," Sakher told this correspondent on Thursday.

In Brahmanbaria, another housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at Ratanpur village in

Nasirnagar upazila on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Reena Begum, 20, wife of Amirul Islam of the village.

Police quoting locals said, since her marriage a few years ago, Reena was being tortured by her husband and other family members on flimsy grounds.

On the fateful day Amirul and his mother beat Reena mercilessly following a family feud in the morning.

After the incident she committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of the house at dead of night, local said.

Kairunnesa, mother of Reena Begum, filed a case in this connection.

# Three boys drown

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three little boys drowned in Comilla and Satkhira yesterday.

Two boys drowned in a pond at village Borgila under upazila of Sadar Dhaksin upazila of Comilla yesterday noon, reports a correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Md. Zakaria, 7, son of Ahadur Rahman and Md. Hasanuzzaman, 8, son of Md. Ali Hossain of the village.

Family sources said the two boys went to the pond for bathing and at one stage were washed away.

Local people after a hectic search found the boys and rushed them to the upazila health complex where the attending doctors declared them dead.

In Satkhira, a two-year-old boy drowned in a pond at village Barabilla in Tala upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sabbir Hossain, son of Sheikh Ruhul Amin of the village.

Quoting locals police said, the boy was playing by the side of the pond. At one stage, he slipped into the pond and drowned.

Local people later found the body floating in the pond at noon.

# Muggers kill one, injure two others

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Muggers stabbed a man to death and seriously injured two others in Meherpur and Bogra districts on Wednesday.

According to our Kushtia correspondent, muggers stabbed a man to death and injured another in Meherpur on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Rocky Ahmed, 24, of Mayamari in Sadar upazila of Meherpur.

His father Golam Mustafa, 45, was injured by the muggers.

According to police, Rocky, owner of Rocky Tailors in Meherpur town, was returning home with his father Mustafa on a motorcycle after finishing work at his shop.

A gang of six to seven muggers intercepted them at Chadbeel-Mayamari field at about 12:45am.

The gang stabbed them indiscriminately leaving Rocky dead on the spot. The muggers then took away the victim's belongings including cash, mobile phones and the motorcycle.

In Bogra, a gang stabbed a trader indiscriminately and took away his money, mobile phone set at Rail Station Road in the town early Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Shahed Javedur Sahin, executive committee member of Bogra Diabetic Association and a trader of the New Market of the town.

Sources said, a gang of muggers numbering 8/10 intercepted him while he along with his friend was returning to his Seugari residence in the town by a rickshaw after closing his business establishment after midnight.

As they tried to resist, the gang stabbed him indiscriminately and took away cash, mobile phone set from his possession.

Hearing his cry for help, locals rushed him to a nearby clinic in critical condition. A case was filed.



A piece of land beside a public path near BRTC Bus Stand in Bogra town remains an open garbage dump, showing a striking contrast to Bogra Town Beautification Project initiated by the authorities a few years ago.

PHOTO: STAR

## BARISAL CITY

# Only 8 public toilets for half a million people

UNB, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) with 45 square kilometers closed most of the time while the rest four operate under unhygienic condition.

Four of those remain closed most of the time while the rest four operate under unhygienic condition.

City dwellers allege that the situation is creating not only health and sanitation hazards for both local and floating people, but also polluting the overall environment in the city.

sanitation and health department of BCC, said at present there is one toilet for over 62,000 people in average distances of 5.6 square kilometers area.

The eight public toilets are situated within 10 square kilometers of the city centers and surroundings at Rupatali and Nathullabad bus terminals, launch-steamers station, Battala, Chowmatha, Natun and Bangla Bazaar and at Aswani Kumar Hall.

Rest 35 square kilometers area of densely populated Amanatganj, Kawnia,

Chawkbazaar, Bagra Road, Sagordi, Ichhakati and court compound have no public toilet.

Mainly females, children, aged people, patients, pedestrians, members of lower income groups like rickshaws, day-labourers, hawkers, small shopkeepers are facing problem in responding to nature's call due to absence of necessary public toilets.

Finding no way out they are compelled to respond to the call of nature at roadside, walls, drains, canals and ponds causing health haz-

ards and vitiating environment, said Enayet Hossain Chowdhury, former secretary on Barisal Nagorik Parishad.

"We need at least one public toilet at each of the 30 wards of BCC," said Dr. Mizanur Rahman, member secretary of Nagorik Samaj.

Dr. Matiur Rahman, chief medical officer of BCC, said tender works for construction of a public toilet at Sagordi SBMCH area has been completed and nine other toilets in different areas would be constructed in phases.



A procession was brought out in Barisal city yesterday demanding start of academic session at Barisal University from this year.

PHOTO: STAR

## DEMAND FOR UNIVERSITY SESSION

# 'Barisal Achal' for 10 minutes

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

All activities in Barisal city remained at a complete standstill for ten minutes from 10:00am yesterday to press home the demand for starting classes at Barisal University from the current academic session.

Vehicular movements, river transports and ferry services remained halted while business and adminis-

trative activities were suspended during the programme organised by 'The Committee for implementation of academic activities at Barisal University'.

Leaders and activists of all political parties, local lawmakers, teachers, students, cultural activists, representatives from professional, human rights and voluntary organisations, took part in

the programme titled 'Barisal Achal'.

It was part of a month-long programme that began on August 22. The programme includes mass contact at upazila level, exchange of views with socio-cultural, political and professional bodies, rallies, human chains, and meeting with the education minister on September 19.