

PHOTO: STAR

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.

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.

total number of infected people rose to 42 in Daulatpur upazila of Kustia, 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

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 With yesterday's five, the surgeon of Kushtia said, "We are actually hospitalising people just on the basis symptoms of the disease and giving them initial treatment".

> complex sources, most of the patients prefer to take treatment at their home to avoid 'embarrassment'. "Our medical teams have

According to upazila health

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 cattleheads at Dharmadaha and adjacent villages of Bilgathua and Krishnapur caught an 'unknown' disease 10-15 days ago. Villagers slaughtered those and consumed the

In Pachagarh, 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 samples

to Dhaka for test, he said. Shahidul Islam told reporters at the hospital that on 27 August he bought 30Kg Indian beef almost at half price for his daughter's wedding cere-

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

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 Rehena Khatun, 30, daughter of Rahim Baksa Gazi of Koira 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 Lokman demanded Tk Nasirnagar upazila on 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

Soon after the marriage,

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 alterative 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

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 nigh, local said.

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

Three boys

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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 Barabila in Tala upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identi-

fied 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 onWednesday 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 mug-

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 Jabedur 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 Seujgari 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

Beef price tumbles for anthrax fear Chicken sellers take full advantage

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Demand for beef is falling while prices of chickens are soaring as detection of anthrax has sent an alarm among people in districts.

In Khulna city, sale of red meat in over 300 makeshift shops under five police stations has fallen sharply, reports our staff correspondent.

The number of cows and goats slaughtered for sale of red meat has also declined.

Anthrax is a potentially lethal bacterium that exists naturally in the soil and usually infects cattle and goats while grazing in the field. It transmits to human body through intake of meat of the infected cattle or goats, said Khulna district livestock officer Dr. Md. Nizamuddin.

The demand for red meat is gradually declining due to panic over anthrax, said Selim Hossain, joint secretary of Khulna Meat Sellers' Association.

The price of beef has fallen to Tk 200 from Tk 240 per kilogram while mutton to Tk 300 from Tk 350 since last Thursday.

There has so far been no report of anthrax infection in Khulna city and district. Yet, panicked people have stopped buying red meat, said city Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque who recently banned slaughtering of cattle in open place to avoid anthrax infection.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the situation, the sellers of both farmed and non farmed chickens are gradually soaring prices at their will in the city kitchen markets.

President of Khulna city unit of Poultry Farm Association Anisuzzaman admitted raising prices of farmed cocks and hens by over 25 to 30 percent in the last three days soon after the Khulna City Corporation alerted the people about anthrax.

Apart from farmed and non farmed poultry birds, prices of farmed and non farmed eggs have also shot up in retail shops.

Khulna city and nine upazilas of the district have been put on high alert by the livestock department in view of anthrax which is gradually spreading from Sirajganj to different districts including Kushtia.

In Barisal, the demand for beef is falling while demand for chicken increasing followwhich panicked the residents.

ing the death of two cows in Bhola and Pirojpur districts allegedly due to anthrax.

Local dailies, such as daily Matabad, Barisal Protidin and daily Dakkhinanchal, recently reported deaths of cows due to anthrax. However, the government officials here denied any such infection.

Barisal City Corporation authorities have no slaughtering house and also no control or supervision over slaughtering process of 26 beef shops, reports UNB.

Shawkat Hossain Hiron, Barisal City Corporation Mayor (BCC), admitting the fact said that construction of a scientific slaughtering house was included in BCC budget of current fiscal year.

BCC also has no veterinary doctor and staffs of livestock and market departments are not much trained enough to detect such kind of disease. So, we sought help from livestock department for prevention and detection of anthrax in the city, the Mayor said.

In this situation, anthrax panic gripped the city dwellers which tumbled down red meat price to Tk 200 a kg from Tk 250 while soaring the prices of broiler to Tk 135 from Tk 120 a kg.

In the city, daily on an average 20 cattle were slaughtered while the number now reduced to 7/8 per day, said Latif Koshai, a butcher at Barisal Puran Bazar beef shop.

Dr. Kamaluddin, acting director of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said that no anthrax infected patient has been admitted to this hospital till now.

On the other hand, reports received from Bhola said that a cow of Khokan Mia at Paschim Charnoabad village in Sadar upazila

died of anthrax on Tuesday. Report from Bara Machua village in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur district said that a cow of Delwar Hossain died of anthrax.

However, Dr Mrinal Kanti Mridha, Barisal divisional livestock officer, denied any detection of anthrax in the division.

He said that deaths of livestock in monsoon season by eating poisonous grass, loose motion and other types of infection are being considered as anthrax infection by local people. The matter is being published by media,



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

Demand for University Session

Barisal Achal' for 10 minutes

trative activities were sus-

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-

pended 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 September 19.

Achal'. It was part of a monthlong programme that began

the programme titled 'Barisal

on August 22. The programme includes mass contact at upazila level, exchange of views with sociocultural, political and professional bodies, rallies, human chains, and meeting with the education minister on

UNB, Barisal

the situation is creating not

Barisal City Corporation

BARISAL CITY

only health and sanitation hazards for both local and floating people, but also polluting the overall environment in the city.

(BCC) with 45 square kilometer areas and about 5 lakh people has only eight public meters area. toilets for dwellers. Four of those remain closed most of the time while

Bogra Town Beautification Project initiated by the authorities a few years ago.

the rest four operate under unhygienic condition. City dwellers allege that

there is one toilet for over 62,000 people in average distances of 5.6 square kilo-The eight public toilets

sanitation and health depart-

are situated within 10 square kilometers of the city centers and surroundings at Rupatali and Nathullabad bus terminals, launchsteamer station, Battala, Chowmatha, Natun and Bangla Bazaar and at Aswani Kumar Hall.

Rest 35 square kilometer areas of densely populated Jahangir Alam, officer of Amanatganj, Kawnia,

Chawkbazaar, Bagra Road, ards and vitiating environment of BCC, said at present Sagordi, Ichhakati and court ment, said Enayet Hossain compound have no public Mainly females, children, Parishad.

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

Only 8 public toilets for

half a million people

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

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

Chowdhury, former secretary on Barisal Nagorik "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.

case was filed.