

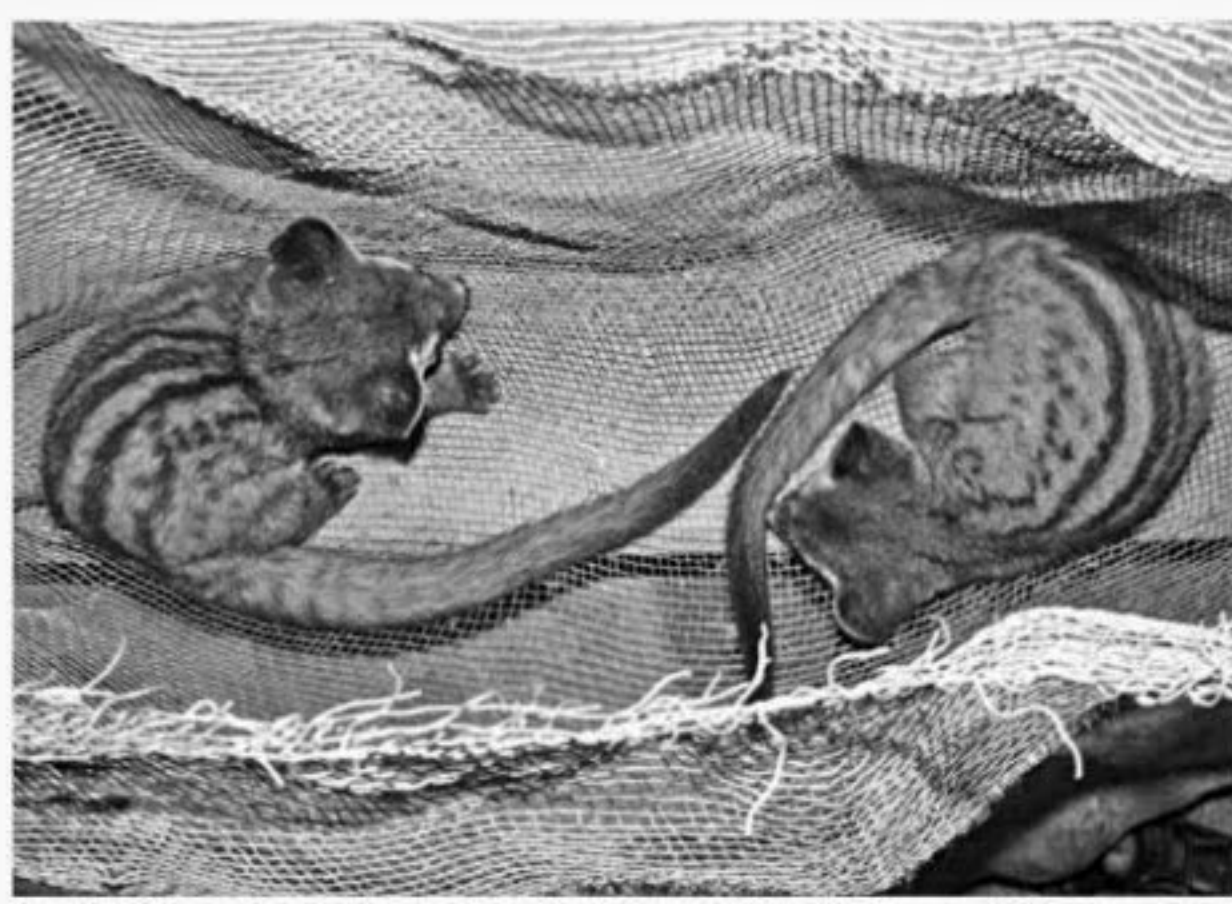
Mother goes missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Two cubs of Indian small civet, locally known as *diklenji* or *bon-khata*s, were caught at Shantibag in the district town on Monday night.

Md Parvez Miah, 25, a night guard of Moulvibazar Ali Amjad Government Girls' High School at Shantibag, caught the two cubs of the animal, now rare in the area.

"Seeing a mother *diklenji* and its two cubs running about from one roof to another and on roads in the school area



during the last few days, I got curious," Parvez Miah said.

"I caught the two cubs alive when they were sleeping in a cornice of the house of Abdul Mosabbir Tarafdar at Shantibag on Monday night. Later I informed the forest department to hand

over the cubs," he said.

The cubs have been kept in a cage.

Face and eyes of the captured animals are similar to those of a cat. It's tail is long, ears are straight and nose and lips are slightly reddish in colour.

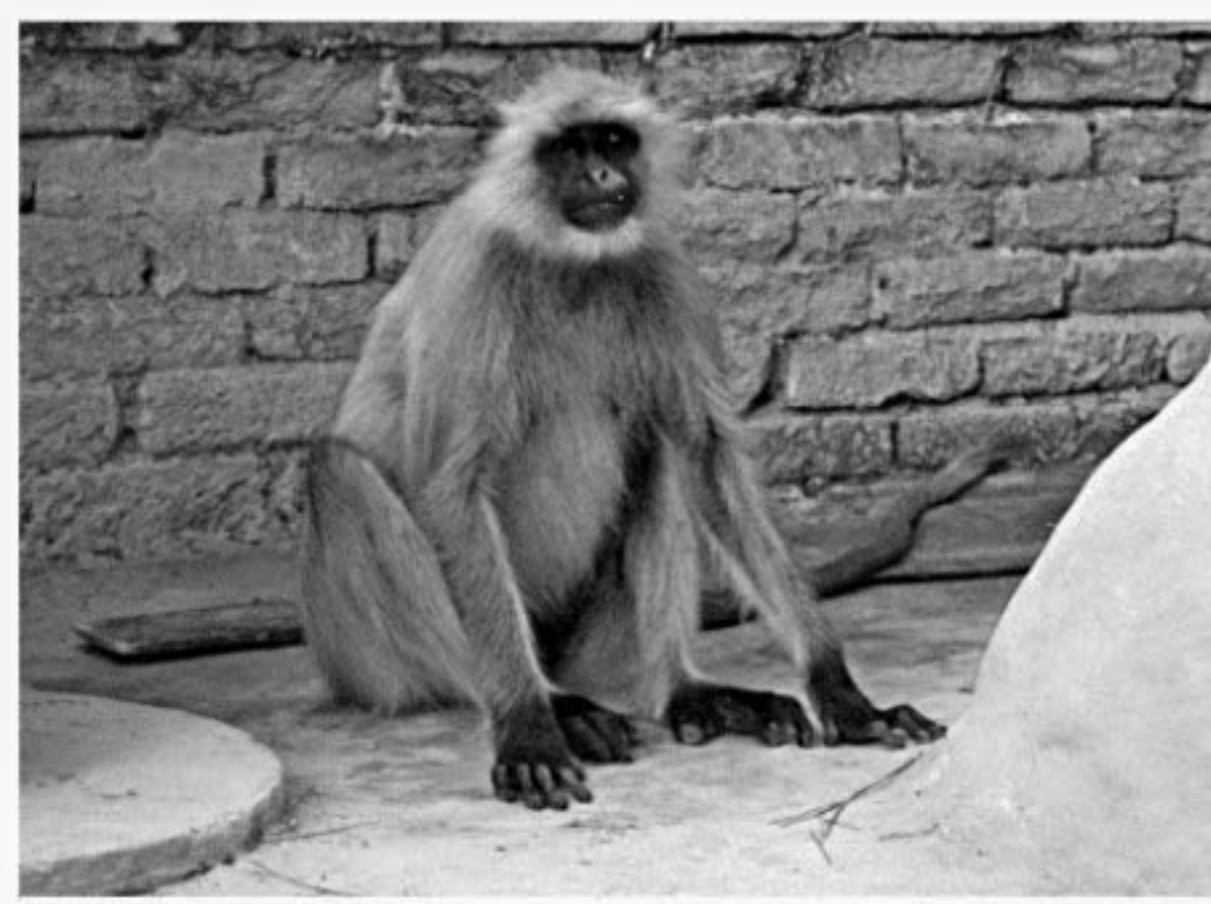
In quest of food

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

A black-faced monkey has been found in Chatmohar upazila in Pabna.

"The black-faced hanuman having white body colour came to Haripur village and took shelter at a tamarind tree of Md Abdul Barik four days ago. Villagers are thronging the spot to see the animal which is rare in the area. They informed the district forest office about the animal," said Mokbul Hossain, chairman of Haripur union parishad.

"Forest staff could not



catch the hanuman after day long efforts on Tuesday as the hanuman sat on the top of a long tamarind tree. Our men are trying to catch the animal safely," said District Forest Officer Md Sayed Ali.

"Only four hundred of

the species, marked by black face and white body, now exist in Bangladesh. We guess that it has come from Keshabpur forest for want of food. If we can rescue the animal safely we will send it to a zoo," he added.

Brother-in-law of Ilias Ali, 27 party activists sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Magura

A brother-in-law of 'disappeared' BNP leader M Ilias Ali and 27 JCD and Jubo Dal men have been sued on charge of damaging a truck in Magura during the BNP-enforced second straight countrywide hartal on Monday.

Truck owner Tanjel Hossain Khan, also senior vice-president of Awami League district unit, filed the case against Ilias' brother-in-law Anjum Hasan Sumon, JCD district unit Organising Secretary Abdur Rahim and 26 other JCD and Jubo League men with

Magura Sadar Police Station on Tuesday night.

In the case statement, the plaintiff stated that at least 50 people led by Sumon, former vice-president of JCD district unit, attacked the Rajbari-bound truck near the Water Development Board (WDB) office in Dhaka Road bus stand area of the district on Monday. The attackers also took away Tk 15,000 from the trucker.

SM Keramat Ali, inspector (investigation) of the police station, said the case was recorded under the Speedy Trial Act.

None of the accused was arrested as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Villagers foil bid to arrest UP chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Locals put barricade on Dhaka-Pabna highway at Jalalpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila for an hour to foil law enforcers' alleged bid to pick up Md Ibrahim Ali Mridha, chairman of Goyeshpur union parishad, on Tuesday night.

Family members of Ibrahim, also vice president of Pabna Sadar upazila of BNP, alleged assault on them by plain-clothed Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men who entered the house to arrest him.

Denying the allegation, Pabna camp commander of Rab-12 Tanvir Anwar said, "Acting on a tip, a Rab team raided Harinarayanpur village of Goyeshpur union on Tuesday evening to recover illegal arms. We did not go there to pick up Ibrahim chairman but the villagers and men of Ibrahim gathered and put the barricade following the rumour of picking him up."

"A team of plain-clothed law enforcers raided our residence at Harinarayanpur village on Tuesday evening. They searched for my father and beat us as we protested

the unnecessary harassment," said Raja Mridha, son of Ibrahim Mridha.

The UP chairman managed to escape from the spot just before the drive but rumour spread in the area that Rab had picked him up.

Consequently, a large number of villagers including the followers of Ibrahim encircled the law enforcers at the village and put barricade at Jalalpur point of Dhaka-Pabna highway in Pabna Sadar upazila.

They set fire to a tire on the highway and chanted slogans demanding 'release' of the UP chairman.

Being informed, police rushed the spot and managed the situation.

"The villagers first pressed the law enforcers to release the UP chairman. It took quite some time before the villagers understood that the law enforcers did not pick up the chairman and he was safe. Later they left the spot," said Jahangir Hossain Matobbar, Pabna superintendent of police (SP).

Ibrahim Ali Mridha is accused in several cases but he is now under bail in all of them, the SP said.

AL, BNP clash in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Seven people were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP in Mahalchhari upazila yesterday.

The injured are Abdus Salam, 35, general secretary of Malhalchhari Sadar Union AL unit, its members Habibur Rahman, 36, Ziaur Rahman, 30, general secretary of Sadar union Jubo League unit, Mohammad Ali, 45, organising secretary of upazila BNP unit, its members Jahangir Alam, 25, Hafiz Uddin, 30 and Tajul Islam, 35.

Of the injured, Salam, Ziaur, Habibur and Mohammad Ali were admitted

to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital while the rest were given first aid.

Police said a group of BNP men attacked Salam, Ziaur and Habibur in Maischhari area at around 9:30am following an altercation between the activists of the two rival parties over Tuesday's hartal.

As the news spread, local AL men swooped on BNP leaders and activists in Mahalchhari Bazar area, leading to a clash between the two sides.

Contacted, Neelotpal Khisha and Mohammad Hossain Babu, presidents of upazila unit AL and BNP blamed each other for the incident.

All 9 Khulna upazila health complexes in sorry state

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

All the nine upazila health complexes in Khuna district are in a sorry state as none of them is well equipped to provide proper healthcare services for the patients.

These are Koira, Paikgacha, Dakope, Terokhada, Phultala, Batiaghata, Digholia, Dumuria and Rupsha upazila health complexes.

Apart from shortage of doctors and nurses, the health complexes do not have required manpower and necessary equipment.

According to sources in Khulna Civil Surgeon office, there are only 92 doctors against 175 posts at nine upazila health complexes.

The following is the situation at a glance at the health complexes.

Koira upazila: Ten out of 13 posts of doctors, 30 out of 96 posts of nurses and lab technicians and nine out of 20 posts of general staff are vacant at Koira Upazila Health Complex, said Medical Officer Dr Anup Kumar Das.

Paikgacha upazila: Medical Officer Dr Abul Fazal said only 12 doctors against 21 posts are now working at the health complex. Besides, 44 out of 167

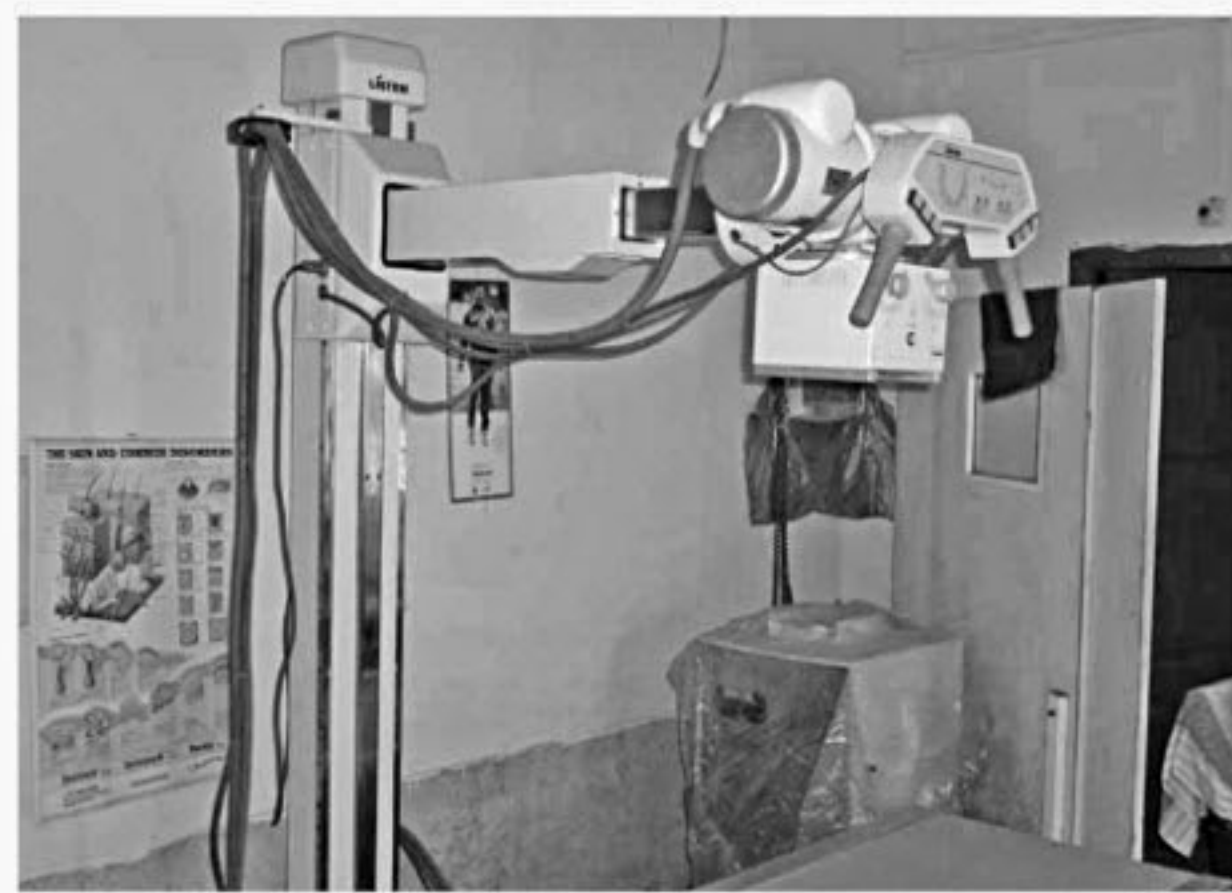


PHOTO: STAR

This X-ray machine at Phultala upazila health complex in Khulna is lying unused for the last two years.

posts for other jobs have been lying vacant for the last two years, making it quite difficult to ensure proper services to patients.

Dakope upazila: Medical Officer Dr Bidhan Chandra Ghose of upazila health complex said 22 out of 30 posts of doctors are vacant. Besides, 34 out of 132 posts of nurses and other employees are also lying vacant at the 50-bed health complex which remains overcrowded with patients most of the time.

Terokhada upazila: According to Medical Officer Dr Abu Naser Sheikh, the upazila health complex has only six

doctors against 15 posts. Besides, 20 out of 83 posts of employees are lying vacant.

Phultala upazila: Medical Officer Dr Manzur Morshed of the upazila health complex said 11 out of 25 posts of doctors are lying vacant. Besides, X-ray and ECG machines have remained out of order for two years, he said, adding that the health complex needs more nurses and general staff.

Batiaghata upazila: Medical Officer Dr Emdadul Huq said the 31-bed health complex has 14 out of 16 doctors and 76 out of 92 nurses and lab technicians.

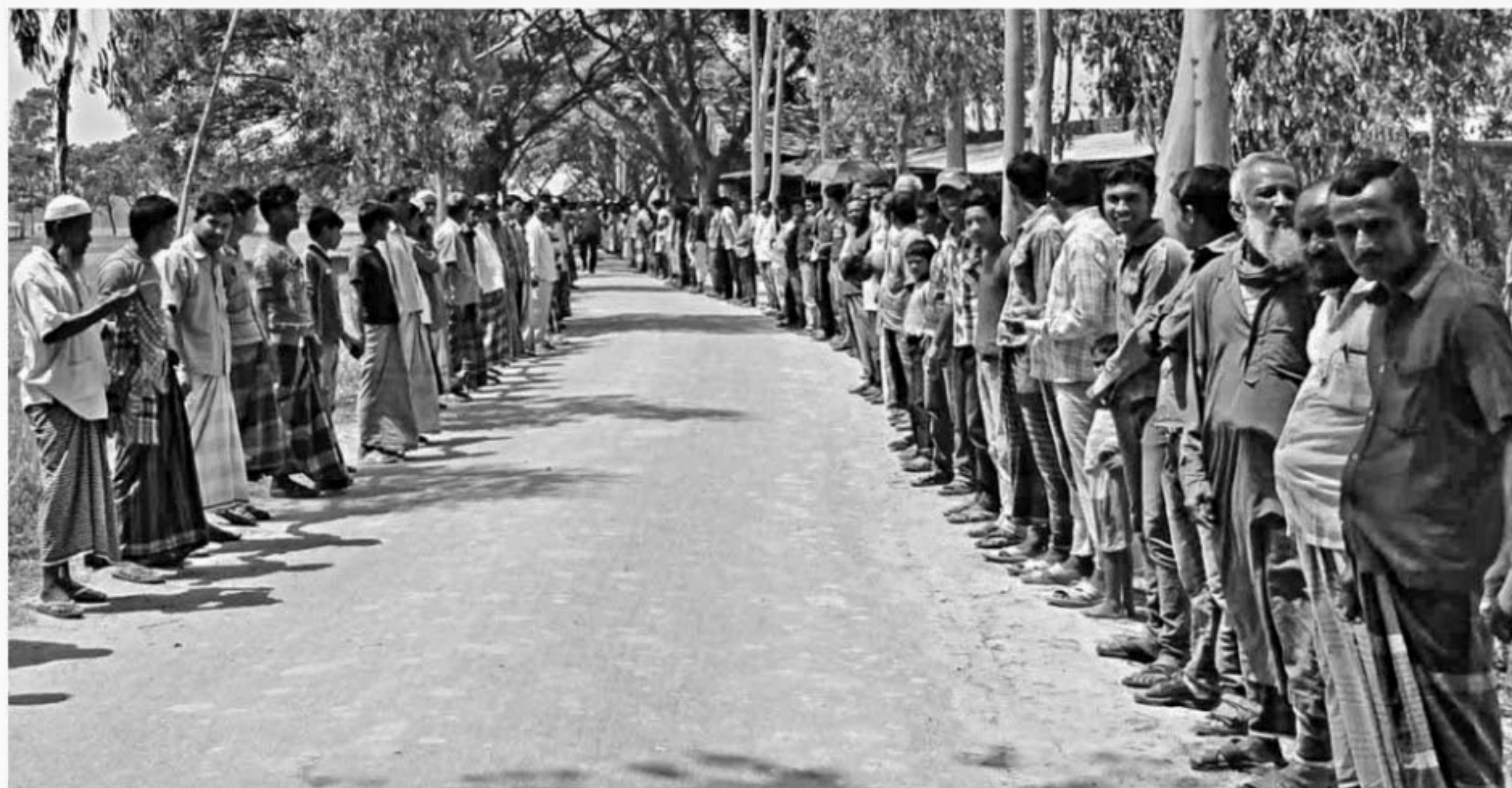


PHOTO: STAR

Victims of land subsidence around Barapukuria coalmine in Dinajpur yesterday formed a human chain, demanding quick payment of compensation and rehabilitation of the affected people. In a memo, they said out of Tk 190 crore allocated for the purpose, distribution of Tk 78 crore remained stalled for over three months. They also sought prime minister's intervention to get rid of alleged harassment by the mine authorities.

8 Jamaat men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Police arrested eight leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami on charge of subversive activities in Birampur upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Anisur Rahman, 55, vice president of district Jamaat unit, Enamul Haque, 50, upazila unit Ameer, upazila unit secretary Tajul Islam, 53, Abdul Mannan, 55, Hafizur Rahman, 52, Shamsul Alam, 50, Abdul Hye, 50 and Borhan Islam, 50.

The law enforcers arrested the eight while they were holding a secret meeting, said officer in-charge of Birampur police station.

Sundarbans robbers abduct 10 fishermen for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Ten fishermen were abducted by 'forest robbers' from Baikari point of Baro Canal of Mamundo River in the Sundarbans on Monday afternoon.

The forest robber are now demanding Tk 20,000 ransom for release of each of them, police quoting the victims' relatives said.

They have to pay the ransom in seven days, failing which the fishermen will face 'a dire consequence', they added.

The robbers are sending messages asking to arrange the ransom within the deadline or receive the dead bodies after that, the victims' relatives told police.

The ten fishermen are Didarul Islam of village Baishkhali, Azizul Islam of village Shaikhali, Safiqul Islam of village Kaikhali, Karim Barkandaz of village Malenga, Nazrul

Islam and Jahangir of village Jayakhali, Safiqul Islam of village Purbo Kaikhali, Anwar Sheikh of village Naikati, Shahidul Dhali of village Sapkati and Mosharrif Hossain of village Kalinch in Shyamnagar upazila.

They went to the Sundarbans on two boats taking pass from the Kaikhali Forest Office in the Sundarbans on Sunday.

While they were catching fish at Baikari point of Baro Canal on Monday, the robbers attacked them. They looted cash and other valuables from the boats and abducted the ten fishermen.

Nayek Subedar Waiz Kuruni of Kalikhali BGB camp under 34 BGB battalion said, they launched a drive in the Sundarbans to rescue the victims.

Contacted, officer in-charge (OC) of Shyamnagar PS Alamgir Hossain said that none came to them to file any complaint in this regard.

Five families flee homesteads for fear of 'ghosts'

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT,
Thakurgaon

Five Hindu families of Yakubpur village in Salondar union under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila have left their ancestral home in fear of what they said ghostly goings-on.

Following suggestions from a few fortune-tellers, they removed 20 rooms of their adjoining houses in a day and set up new dwellings at different places of the same village last month.

During a visit to the area on April 7, this correspondent saw the emptied courtyard that showed signs of being used as dwellings by a few families only a couple of weeks ago.

"During the last two years, we faced a series of spooky events," said Narayan Roy, whose forefathers had been residing in the house for over 150 years.

"My wife Surabala Roy fell sick and she had to undergo two operations for appendicitis and eye. Then two cows and four goats died in last February. Surabala also saw ghosts walking on the courtyard during amabashya (the last day of the dark fortnight) and purnima (full moon).

"I went to fortune-tellers including Kokan Roy of Chaturakhor village and Ananda Sen of Dewgaon

village under Sadar upazila for solution. Following their advice, we left our home and built new houses at different places in the same village last month. Now we feel better than before," he said.

The families of Narayan Roy, Khogeshwar Roy Kalipada Barman, Dhaneshwar Barman and Harani Barman left the place after repeated suggestions from the so-called fortune-tellers, said Bhabesh Chandra, a teacher of Kshalbari High School, and a neighbour of the families.

Contacted, 'fortune-teller' Ananda Sen, said, "The place is not good for their dwelling as three land demarcation lines meet there."

Fazle Elahi Chowdhury, chairman of Salondar union parishad, said, "After coming to know the matter from Sadar upazila nirbahi officer, I along with him visited the spot and came to know that the families left their houses as 'fortune-tellers' created misgivings in their minds. So far as I know the families have no enmity with their neighbours."

Gopal Chakrabarty, officer in charge of Sadar police station, said they are investigating whether any other factor led the five families to leave their ancestral home.

SNIPPETS

PM to visit Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit Habiganj on April 30. District administration sources said the PM will inaugurate the second unit of condensate fractionation plant at the state-run Rashidpur Gas field and a compressor on the national gas supply grid at around 11:00am. She will also attend some other programmes in the district, the sources added.

BCL leader abducts teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidaha

A union Chhatra League leader and his cohorts abducted a female schoolteacher at gun point while at work at her Mothbaria Government Primary School under Gangarampur union in Jhircorgachha upazila of Jessore on Tuesday noon. The incident took place in front of the headmaster, teachers and students. Shajahan Ali, father of the victim filed a case with Jhircorgachha police station accusing five including Mithu Hossain, 34, BCL president of Dhuliani union in Chowgachha, Hadi Mondol, an accused in union parishad chairman Tutul murder case, Biblob Hossain and two other unidentified persons.

Swchhasebak League man killed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Criminals stabbed a leader of Awami Swchhasebak League to death in Sadar upazila of Bogra yesterday. The deceased, Ashish Kumar Roy, 28, was a joint-convenor of the upazila unit of the party. Police and witnesses said, a gang waylaid Ashish near Jamilnagar and stabbed him indiscriminately. Later he died at local hospital.

1 killed, 30 hurt in clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man was killed and 30 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Mithapukur upazila yesterday morning over land dispute. Police and eyewitnesses said the clash took place between the people of Sayeed Ali and Mamtaj Ali of Boalmari village under Gopalpur union when Mamtaj Ali and his supporters destroyed all the crops on the disputed land. During the clash, Anichul Haque Moshir, 30, son of Mamtaj Ali, died, said police.

Jubo Dal leader arrested

UNB, Patuakhali

Police arrested Patuakhali District Jubo Dal Convener Mashiur Rahman from Chowrasta area in the town yesterday morning. Officer in-charge (OC) Maniruzzaman of Sadar police station said Jubo Dal supporters led by Mashiur, set a police box afire during pre-hartal violence on the night of April 21.

60 hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidaha

At least 60 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Awami League over felling banana plants on a piece of disputed land at Goloknagar village in Shaikhupur yesterday. Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Goloknagar AL ward president Raihan Uddin, owner of the banana plants, and Feroz Ahmed, chairman of Mirzapur union parishad and AL secretary, over the disputed land. The followers of Raihan and Feroz locked in a clash at noon, leaving over 60 from both sides injured after the plants were cut down by rivals.