



A farmer tends his maize field at Dighaltari village in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district.

PHOTO: STAR

Maize farmers in Lalmonirhat eye bumper yield

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The maize farmers in five upazilas of the district are expecting bumper yield of the crop this year due to favourable weather conditions.

They have cultivated maize even on abandoned land and are expecting wind-fall profit.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat said they had planned to cultivate maize on 15,000 hectares of land, but increased it to 25,000 hectares.

Jaldhar Sen, a farmer of bordering Dighaltari village in Aditmari upazila, said he has been cultivating maize on his land for the last seven years. "This year, I have

cultivated maize on 10 bighas of land and I expect to get 280 maunds.

He further said that he had spent Tk 3000 for maize farming on one bigha of land and expects to earn minimum Tk 12,000 from each bigha. "I will cultivate the crop on more land if I get agriculture loan from the bank," the farmer added.

Mazid Miah, 55, of Dowani village in Hatibandha upazila said they spend less on irrigation, labour, and fertiliser for maize cultivation than for other crops.

"I got 104 maunds of maize from four bighas of land last year and I hope to get 105 to 110 maunds this year," Mazid said, adding that he sold one maund of

maize for Tk 460 last year.

Farmers Delowar Hosain, Naresh Chandra, Babul Miah, Sahed Miah, Rajoni Kanta Sen and many others at Bawra village of Patgram upazila said they have been earning a handsome profit by cultivating maize in the last few years. This crop has become the main crop at the village, they said, adding that the middlemen pay in advance for purchasing maize.

Safayet Hossain, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said farmers will reap bumper output of maize this year due to good seeds and favourable weather conditions. They will also get expected prices in the local markets this year, he hoped.

Madrasa student killed by playmate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A teenage boy, who was injured by one of his playmates during a cricket match in Parbatipur upazila on Saturday afternoon, died at Rangpur Prime Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Ariful Islam, 19, son of Nawab Ali of Dolapara village in the upazila, was an Alim student at Gobindapur Kamil Madrasa in the upazila.

Police detained Akram Ali, 16, a Dakhil student of the madrasa, for his alleged involvement in the incident.

Police said Ariful and Akram locked in an altercation during a friendly cricket match at the madrasa playground in the afternoon.

At one stage, Akram hit Ariful on the head with a cricket bat, leaving him critically injured.

Other playmates rushed him to a clinic in the upazila headquarters. He was

shifted to Rangpur Prime Medical College Hospital in the evening, where he succumbed to his injuries around 4:00am, said Mahmudul Alam, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Police Station.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of a 10-year-old boy from Gopalganj village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Quoting victim's family members police said Babu Islam, son of Nazrul Islam of Kamalpur village in the upazila, went out of his house on Saturday afternoon and did not return home.

Locals spotted his body at a litchi orchard in the morning and informed the police, said ATM Khalequzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Police went to the spot around 12:00noon, recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy, the OC added.

Body exhumed after 38 days, wife confesses to killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The body of a man, killed by his wife in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills area on March 26, was exhumed on Sunday.

The victim, Rafi Uddin, 52, son of Tahazzed Hossain of Baroipara village under Sreepur upazila of Magura district, was a garage mechanic of the sugar mills.

Police arrested his wife Fatema Khatun, 45, from Magura on Saturday. On the basis of her confessional statement, law enforcers exhumed the decomposed body on Sunday morning from a cowshed in Mobarakganj Sugar Mills area.

Police and locals said Rafi and Fatema locked in an altercation over a trivial matter on the night of March 26. At one stage, Fatema hit Rafi on the head

with an iron rod. He died instantly.

Later, Fatema with the help of Anis Bhuyan, also an employee of the sugar mills, severed Rafi's legs and put them in a sack. They dug a hole in the cowshed near Rafi's house and dumped his body into it the same night.

After two days, Fatema said her husband had gone to his village home in Magura and remained missing since then. At this, the sugar mills authorities filed a general diary (GD) with Kaliganj Police Station on April 2.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Anwar Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station said they arrested Fatema with the help of Magura police, suspecting her involvement in the murder. During interrogation, she confessed to killing her husband, the OC added.

2 Akij staff robbed of Tk 4.6 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A group of armed miscreants snatched over Tk 4 lakh from two employees of Akij Group near Palli Bidyut station in Sundarganj upazila yesterday.

Quoting locals, police said manager Fakhrul Islam and depot-in-charge Asaduzzaman Palash of Akij Group went to the local branch of Islami Bank on a motorcycle to deposit Tk 4.6 lakh.

When they reached near Palli Bidyut station, a gang of five to six stopped them and hit them with cricket stumps. The gang snatched

the money from the duo and fled the scene.

Hearing screams, locals rushed in and took the two to the hospital.

Being informed, police went to the spot and in an instant drive arrested two people, Diner Sarker, 29, and Shafiqul Islam, 30, from Sundarganj municipality, suspecting their involvement in the incident.

Police could not recover the looted money as of filing this report at 5:00 pm yesterday.

A drive is on to catch the culprits, said Mozammel Hoq, Officer-in-Charge Sundarganj police station.

Mother, son injured over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An employee of a tea garden and his mother were injured in an attack by criminals over land dispute in Banshkhalia upazila of the district yesterday.

Injured Sadhan Kanti Mohajan, 40, a clerk of Pukuria Boilgaon Tea Garden in the upazila, and his mother Bhanu Bala, 70, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Sadhan was shifted to a private hospital in the city with bullet injuries in the chest as his condition deteriorated, said his wife Ranu Bala.

"A gang of 4/5 stormed the house at their tea garden

quarter around 1:00am and shot Sadhan. They also hit Bhanu Bala with iron rods as she tried to resist them," said Ranu.

Police said the criminals carried out the attack as there was a longstanding dispute between the tea garden authorities and local people over a land in the area.

On March 17 this year, Santosh Kumar Dey, another employee of the tea garden, filed an extortion case, accusing 14 residents of the area, said Swapan Kumar Majumder, officer-in-charge of Banshkhalia Police Station.

The attack was launched to withdraw the case, suspected police.

EARTHQUAKES IN LATE APRIL

34 schools among 36 bldgs in Nilphamari develop cracks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The earthquake on April 25 and the next two days caused cracks in 36 brick-built structures housing 29 primary schools, five high schools and colleges, a land office and a union parishad office in the district, turning those risky.

Most seriously affected structures are Kishoreganj Sadar union parishad office, Kishoreganj upazila land office, Borobhita School and College in Kishoreganj upazila, Kanialkhata High School and Laxmichap High

School in Sadar upazila, Gosaiganj School and College in Domar upazila and Dalia High School of Dimlaupazila.

Six upazila administrations under the district separately prepared the list of earthquake-affected buildings in the respective areas and sent the reports to the district administration.

Primary listing of the affected structures has been done and a programme for necessary repair will be taken after verifying the nature of damage, said Nilphamari Deputy

Commissioner Zakir Hossain.

Several tremors shook large areas of the country including the district as a consequence of a major earthquake in Nepal on April 25 and several aftershocks for the next couple of days.

At least 40 workers of different factories of Uttara EPZ at Sangolshi village in Nilphamari district were admitted to Nilphamari 100-bed hospital after being injured in stampede while rushing towards the gates to come out during the earthquake.

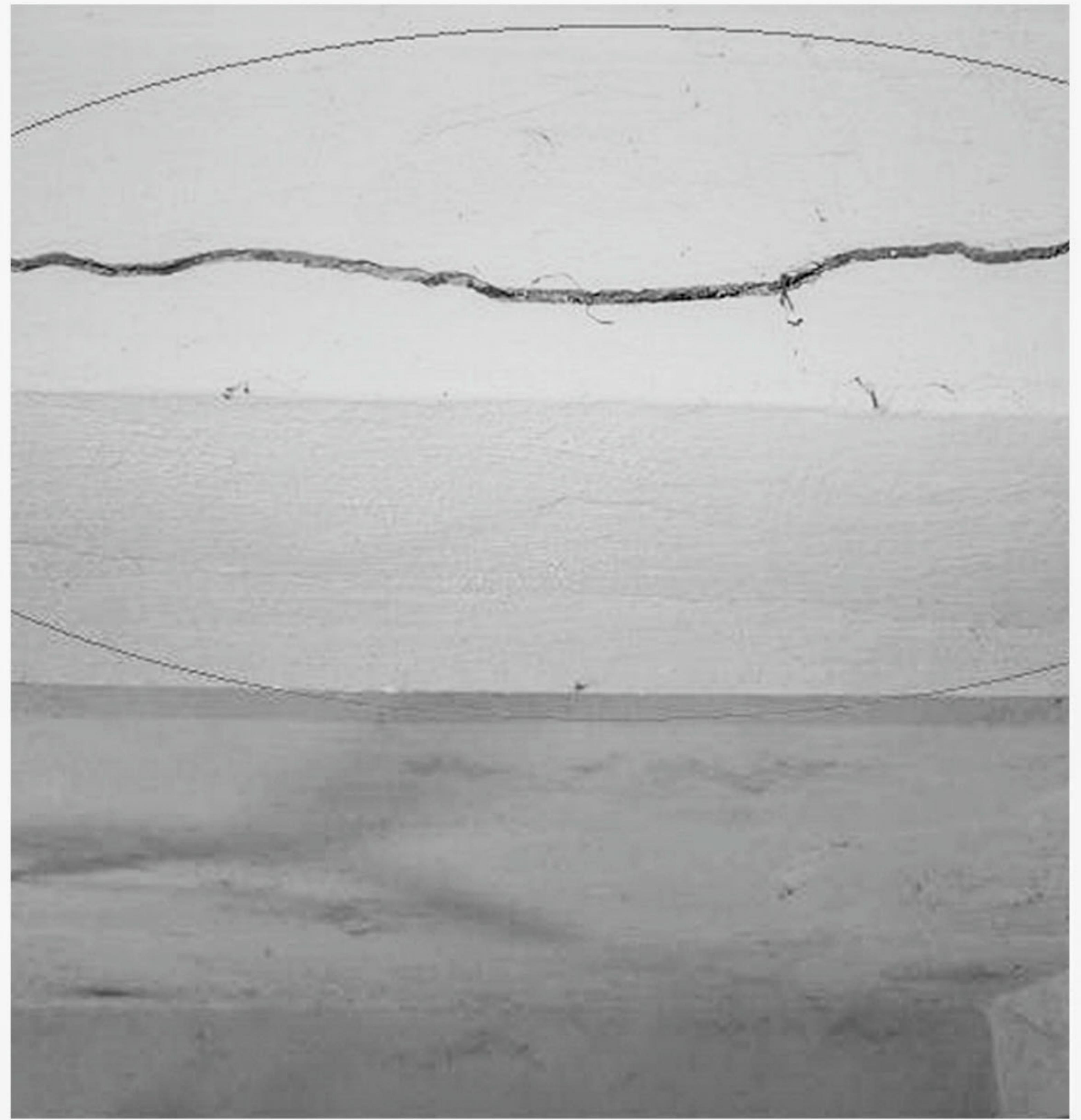


PHOTO: STAR

Cracks develop in a beam of the ceiling of Kishoreganj upazila land office in Nilphamari district following the earthquake on April 25.

Four to die for murder in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A court here yesterday sentenced four youths to death for killing a man in Tarakanda upazila of the district in 2008.

The death penalty recipients are Mir Jahan, 25, son of Abdul Monnas, Emdadul Haque, 23, son of Mohammad Ali, Anisur Rahman, 22, son of Abdul Hye, and Ziaul Haque, 23, son of late Chand Miah. They all hail from Bottola village in the upazila.

According to the prosecution, the five swooped on Abdur Razzaq Fakir, 32, a poultry trader of Taltola village, at Madhupur Bazar in the upazila while he was going to Mymensingh town at around 8:00pm on October 15, 2008.

They stabbed Razzaq and took away Tk 15,000 from him. Razzaq died on the spot.

Locals chased the gang and caught Mir Jahan, one of the gang members, while the rest managed to flee.

They later handed him over to the police.

During interrogation, Jahan disclosed the names of three other gang members who were later arrested.

Victim's elder brother Hazrat Ali Fakir filed a murder case with Tarakanda Police Station the following day.

After examining witness testimonies and evidence, Additional District and Session Judge Mohammad Johirul Kabir delivered the verdict.

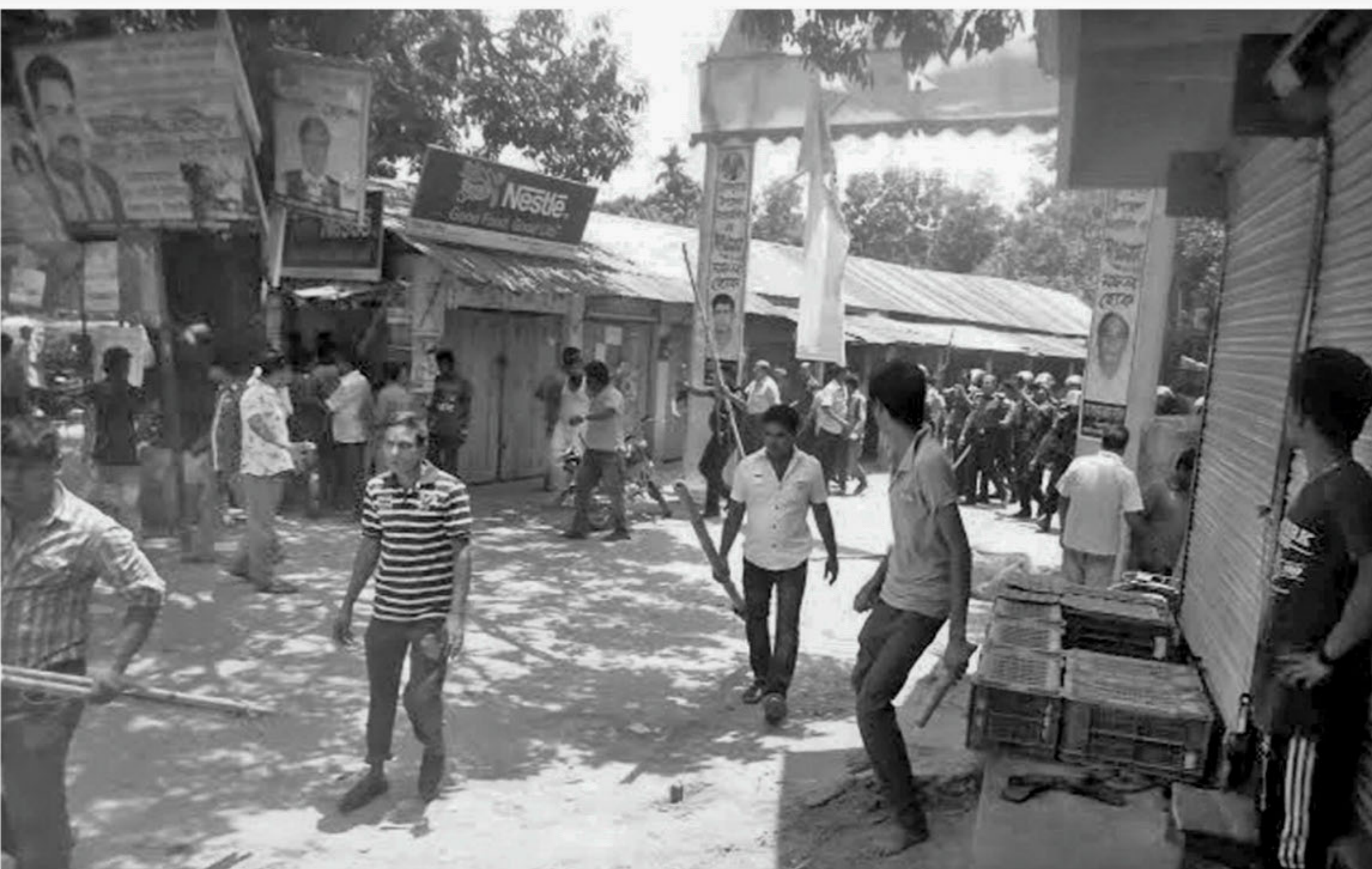


PHOTO: STAR

Local Awami League activists chase each other during a factional clash that left 10 people injured in Delduar upazila under Tangail district yesterday.

Rival AL men clash over upazila council, 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two factions of local Awami League over its council in Delduar upazila of the district yesterday.

Ruling party lawmaker from Tangail-6 constituency Khandakar Abdul Baten, and president of the district unit of AL Alamgir Khan Menu also faced an odd situation during the incident.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to bring the situation under control, said Chand Miah, officer-in-charge of Delduar Police Station, adding that additional police personnel have been deployed in the area to avert any further trouble.

The injured include Rafiqul Islam, office secretary of the district unit of AL, and Nazmul Huda Nabin, president of district

unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The three-yearly council of Delduar upazila AL was scheduled to be held on the upazila parishad premises yesterday after 12 years but it was later suspended following the clash, said party sources.

Upazila unit president Khandakar Fazlul Haque and general secretary Sirajul Islam Mallik led the last council of the party held in 2003.

Being informed that the supporters of the lawmaker yesterday tried to form a new committee in an 'undemocratic way', the central leaders of the party asked for suspension of the council, said Fazlul Haque, convener of the council preparation committee.

The committee recently formed new committees in eight unions and 72 wards and later made prepara-

tions to form the upazila committee.

A group of the party men backed by lawmaker Baten, however, opposed the new committee formation and formed an 11-member council preparation committee through the district committee.

Later, separate committees of the eight unions and 72 wards were formed by two joint conveners of the preparation committee--Abul Kalam Siddique and M Shiblee Sadik--supported by Baten.

The separate committees formed by the both groups for the unions and wards had been running simultaneously in the upazila.

Contacted, the lawmaker blamed Fazlul-Mallik group for the attack as they wanted to form the committee through voting in a council while the group wanted to form it through selection.



PHOTO: STAR

Four death sentence awardees in a murder case being taken to jail in Mymensingh after the verdict yesterday.