



PHOTO: STAR

A woman is visibly worried as her lone cow gets foot and mouth disease at Kamlabari village in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

35 cows in Aditmari UZ die in a week

Thousand others infected in Lalmonirhat district, livestock office sends urgent message as vaccine runs short

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

At least 35 cows have died of foot and mouth disease (FMD) at six villages in Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat district in the last one week while around one thousand cows in five upazilas of the district have been infected.

Amid crisis of FMD vaccine, the livestock office in the district yesterday sent an emergency message seeking immediate supply of 3,000 vaccines, livestock office sources said.

"Three of my cows have died of FMD in last four days. Four others are also infected but I'm not getting FMD vaccine from the livestock office as their stock is already finished," said Subhas Chandra Barman, a farmer at Kamlabari village of Aditmari upazila.

Asgar Ali, a farmer at Mahishkhicha village of Aditmari upazila, said two of his eight cows died of FMD in last four days.

"Two other cows got the disease, but vaccine is not

available. I may lose more cows if I do not get the vaccine very soon," he said.

"We get FMD vaccine from the livestock office by paying Tk 10 for each. We can't treat FMD infected cows personally as the vaccine is not available in the open market," said farmer Nazrul Islam at Bhadaï village of the upazila.

Dr Mamunur Rashid, Aditmari upazila livestock officer, said they are paying door to door visits and advising farmers how

to take care of FMD infected cows.

Admitting the shortage of FMD vaccines, District Livestock Officer Dr Joyal Abedin said he has sent an emergency message to the authorities concerned seeking supply of 3,000 vaccines by today [Sunday].

There is high risk of FMD in Lalmonirhat as Indian cows brought to Bangladesh through the bordering district sometimes carry germs of the disease and it spreads to local cows, he said.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Border Guard Bangladesh seizes 318 pieces of goat skin when those were allegedly being smuggled to India through Daulatpur border in Benapole under Jessore district early yesterday.

RIVERS, CANALS IN SUNDARBANS

Fishing with current nets goes on defying ban

UNB, Khulna

In flagrant defiance of the existing ban, mindless fishing with current nets in the coastal waters of the Sundarbans goes on.

The fisheries and livestock ministry has recently taken a decision to launch a crackdown to stop netting of fish with current nets, especially to protect shrimp fry.

Forest department and Bangladesh Coastguard launched a joint drive against fishing with illegal current nets on January 4 which will continue till January 18.

Sources said several thousand people from Koyra, Dakope and Paikgachha upazilas of Khulna district, Shyamnagar and Ashashuni upazilas of Satkhira district and Mongla and Sarankhola upazilas of Bagerhat district are involved in catching fish with current nets from the sea and different rivers and canals in the Sundarbans and maintain

livelihood by selling the catches. Some seasonal fishermen setting up makeshift houses continue catching fish in the coastal waters this way, causing much harm to the fish resources in the name of collecting fry of lobster and other species of shrimp.

The coastal areas are home to several species of shrimp, including bagda, galda, chaka, harina, chapda, kanthalia, baghatar bhinau, ghusa, matka, rasnai and chatka, various types of fish, including pangash, tengra, magur, med, bhetki, datina, kaun, bhangon, poa, china, chela, dhela, crabs and several species of zooplankton.

They are being affected due to collection of shrimp fry which are usually netted by using fine nets.

Defying the ban imposed by the government, the fishermen are collecting fish fry from the Bay, rivers, canals and the coastal areas of the Sundarbans using current nets, result-

ing in destruction of ecology and premature death of fishes.

Rabiul Alam, assistant professor of the Department of Forestry and Wood Technology of Khulna University, said due to lack of enforcement of the ban, existence of several species of fish is under threat.

GM Waheduzzaman, owner of a shrimp enclosure in Koyra, said the local shrimp farmers in the area collect the river-based shrimp fry from the local fishermen and release those into their enclosures.

Jahir Uddin Ahmed, divisional forest official, said the patrol teams of the Forest Department, conducted separate drives for checking the use of current nets and actions were taken against the violators.

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Narayan Chandra Chanda said the government has taken necessary steps to protect the fish species from disappearing.

Main accused in Banoful staff murder case held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the prime accused in the case for killing two employees of Banoful sweetmeat factory from Dorbost area under Jaintapur upazila of Sylhet district on Friday.

The arrestee is Afzal Hosain Rajib, son of Malai Miah of Doloi para village in Khadimpara under the district, said SM Tanvir Arafat, assistant police superintendent of Rab-9.

Masud Parvez, brother of slain Raju Mia, filed the case with Shahporan Police Station, accusing 10 people, said Nizam Uddin Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of the police station.

On January 8, Raju Mia and Topu Mia, employees of a Banoful sweetmeat factory, were killed and another was injured in an attack by a gang in Khadimnagar area of Sylhet city.

Seriously injured Russel, 22, was rushed to the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said police.

The law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest the killers, said Basudeb Banik, deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (South Division).

One killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was killed in a clash over land dispute at Chowka village under Pagla Police Station in Gafargaon upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Elim Uddin, 70, son of late Abdul Halim of the village.

There had been a long-standing dispute over a piece of land between Elim Uddin and his cousins.

Elim and his cousins engaged in an altercation over the issue at around 11:00am, police said.

At one stage, his cousins' men beat up Elim in front of his house, injuring him critically, said Md Chand Miah, officer-in-charge of Pagla Police Station.

Elim was rushed to Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex where he succumbed to his injuries soon after admission, the OC added.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

None was arrested in connection with the incident as of filing of this report at 5:00pm.

B' BARIA INCIDENT

Madrasa teacher sues 500 people

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Another case has been filed in connection with the triangular clash in Brahmanbaria town that left a madrasa student dead on January 12.

Mufti Maulana Shamsul Haq, a teacher of Jamia Islamia Yunusia Madrasa, filed the case against 500 unnamed people with Sadar Model Police Station on Friday night.

Students of the madrasa vandalised several establishments in the district town following the death of a fellow student on January 12.

They took to the street after fellow student Masudur Rahman succumbed to the injuries he had received in an overnight clash involving traders, madrasa students and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in Zilla Parishad Market area.

INTRA-PARTY FEUD

AL faction in Thakurgaon's Haripur go on rampage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Ignoring Section 144, a faction of local Awami League (AL) brought out a procession at Haripur upazila headquarters under the district and damaged quite a few party posters there yesterday.

Around a hundred activists of the faction, led by AL's upazila unit General Secretary Ziaul Hasan Mukul, joined the procession with sticks and sharp weapons.

Dispute over a local issue in December last year led to emergence of the factions -- one led by Ziaul Hasan Mukul and the other led by local lawmaker Dabirul Isalm, party insiders said.

On Friday, a faction led

by Mukul called upazila unit Krishak League's meeting at the upazila AL's office, to be held yesterday morning while upazila unit Jubo League supported by lawmaker Dabirul Islam announced an extended meeting at the same time and venue.

To avert any untoward incident, the local administration imposed Section 144 at the upazila AL's office and its adjoining area from 6:00am to 11:00pm yesterday.

But the activists of Mukul-led faction gathered in the party office area around 11:00am and brought out a procession with sticks and sharp weapons.

Later they damaged sev-

eral party posters.

The policemen deployed there did not take any action that time, witnesses said.

Earlier on Thursday, Mukul's group sued 20 people of the lawmaker-backed group, including president and general secretary of upazila unit Jubo League Mozibar Rahman and Amzad Hossain.

On Friday, Amzad Hossain filed a case with Haripur Police Station against 21 people including Ziaul Hasan Mukul.

Contacted, Sayedur Rahman, officer in charge of Harpur Police Station, said over cell phone that the situation is under control and additional forces have been deployed to avert further untoward incident.

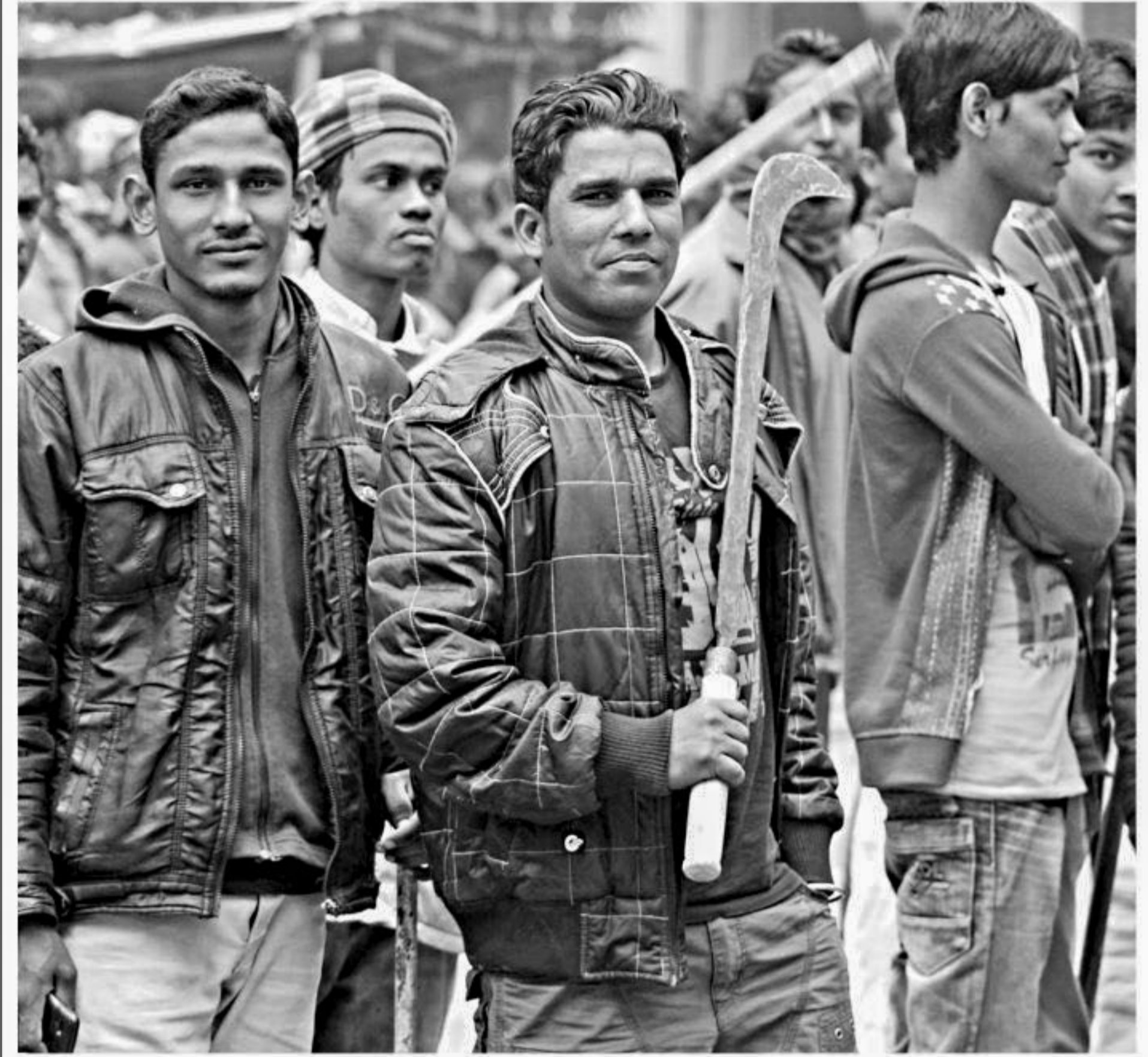


PHOTO: STAR

Arms wielding activists of a faction of local Awami League join a procession, defying Section 144 at Haripur upazila headquarters in Thakurgaon district yesterday.

EXTORTIONISTS LOOT SHOP IN BARGUNA TOWN Traders to observe strike for 3 hrs from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A gang of extortionists attacked a shop named Talukder Cloth Store in Bazar road area in Barguna district town and looted Tk 5 lakh from there yesterday.

The gang also attacked the residence of Md Shahjada Talukder, owner of the shop.

Hearing the news, local traders brought out a procession organised by Barguna Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) in the town, protesting the attack. They also held a meeting in front of the Chamber office.

Md Jahangir Kabir, presi-

dent of BCCI and also administrator of Barguna district council, announced that all traders will keep shutters down for three hours from 10:00am today, demanding arrest of the attackers.

Md Shahin Talukder, younger brother of Shahjada Talukder, said a gang of 10/12 people led by Ovi, Prince and Sohel attacked our shop and also our residence because we refused to give them toll.

Contacted, Md Reaz Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Barguna Police Station, said police have started drive to arrest the gang.

"We visited the spots

but nobody filed any case or complaint with the police station in this regard till 3:00am," he added.

Under trial prisoner dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

An under trial prisoner of the district jail died at Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital in the town yesterday.

Jailer Shah Alam said accused Raihan Ali, 65, complained of chest pain around 9:00am. He was immediately taken to the hospital where he died around 9:45am.



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of people watch as horses vie for winning at the traditional race held at Kazipara in Benghari union of Sakoa upazila under Panchagarh district on Friday.