

Sikkim on alert for bird flu

VIVEK CHHETRI

Darjeeling: A case of avian influenza (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu, was detected in north Sikkim, prompting the district administration to convene a coordination meeting on Thursday to review preventive measures and preparedness.

According to a statement issued by Sikkim's Information and public relations department, the virus was detected in the carcass of an owl found near Galkhan ward in the Kabi block of Mangen district.

"Officials informed that the case is currently limited to wild birds and no infection has been reported in domestic

poultry or livestock in the district so far," the statement said. At the meeting convened by Anant Jain, district collector, Mangen, measures for prevention, control and surveillance, including the identification of possible containment zones, were deliberated.

Officials emphasised that people should avoid handling bird carcasses or approaching birds lying on the ground, as infected birds often lose the ability to fly.

Dr Dechen O. Kaleon, additional director of the animal husbandry & veterinary services department, said that while no cases were detected in domestic species, the infection in the wild owl calls for adequate vigilance.

The statement also mentions that Dr Anita Bhutia, chief medical officer of Mangen district hospital, has said that a few instances of individuals experiencing flu-like symptoms after consuming poultry meat have been reported from some locations and samples have been sent for testing.

"However, these could also be due to common bacterial or viral infections, as no human cases of the virus have been confirmed," the statement added.

Officials were also advised to sensitise the public about avoiding eating or buying poultry meat during social gatherings such as weddings and to encourage individual

uals experiencing flu-like symptoms to visit the nearest healthcare centre.

Jain stressed that there was no cause for panic at present but urged everyone to remain vigilant and respond promptly if and when required.

A containment order was issued in the Sorong district in the last week of February after confirmed cases of bird flu were detected in poultry farms in two locations.

No-flying zone

A no-flying zone for drones, unmanned aerial vehicles and paragliders has been declared over the Darjeeling subdivision on Friday and Saturday in view of President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Darjeeling.

Traffic rejig for Didi's sit-in at Esplanade

KINSUK BASU

Calcutta: Vehicles moving towards Shyamabazar and Park Street will be directed down a single lane at the Metro Channel in the heart of the city from Friday, when chief minister Mamata Banerjee begins her sit-in demonstration, police said.

The Trinamool chief will lead the protest against the alleged arbitrary deletion of names from the voters' list during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll.

The demonstration at the Metro Channel is scheduled to begin at 2pm on Friday, and a dias has been built at the same spot where Mamata observed a 26-day hunger strike in 2006, protesting alleged forcible land acquisition for the car factory at Singur.

"At Metro Channel, the two lanes meant for vehicles headed towards Park Street from Esplanade will be split. One of the lanes will be used for Shyamabazar-bound

vehicles and the other for those headed south," a senior police officer said.

"The two lanes, meant for vehicles headed towards Central Avenue, at the Channel will be shut to traffic movements."

Several officers said that while a traffic diversion plan has been made, no decision has been made about the timing of its implementation on Friday.

"Officers have been instructed to monitor the flow of traffic. Instructions about the timing of traffic diversion will be coming from the chief headquarters in Lalbazar," the officer said.

Several officers said that according to the diversion plan, if the fall-up of vehicles starts growing during the peak traffic hours, all vehicles headed towards Park Street and further south will be diverted from the BB Ganguly Street and Central Avenue crossing towards Lalbazar and then made to move down Old Court House Street towards Red Road.

"If the Shyamabazar-bound vehicles are found to be moving very slowly, some of them will be diverted down from Park Street towards Mayo Road and Esplanade Road East," the officer added.

"Some diversions will be made as and when required," he said.

Bose resigns, CM smells plot

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Mamata added: "However, given the prevailing circumstances, I would not be surprised if the Governor has been subjected to some pressure from the Union Home Minister to serve certain political interests on the eve of the forthcoming State Assembly elections."

"Union Home Minister just informed me that Sri R.N. Ravi is being appointed as Governor of West Bengal. He never consulted with me as per the established convention in this regard."

"Such actions undermine the spirit of the Constitution of India and strike at the very foundation of our federal structure. The Centre must respect the principles of cooperative federalism and refrain from taking unilateral decisions that erode democratic conventions and the dignity of State."

Sources said Bose tendered his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu.

Senior Union home ministry officials were flummoxed by the possible reason. "This has taken us by sur-



R.N. Ravi is set to become the new Bengal governor

prise," a ministry official said. Bose told PTI that he had spent enough time in the post and did not want to continue.

A retired IAS officer from Kerala, Bose had been appointed Bengal governor in November 2022, replacing Lakshman Prasad. He was briefly when the BJP held the predecessor Jagdeep Dhankhar in the vice-presidential election.

Ananda Bose was apparently named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by his father, a freedom fighter.

Ladakh Lieutenant governor Kavinder Gupta, too, handed in his resignation on Thursday. Gupta had been appointed last July.

4 of TMC & Rahul of BJP file papers

Five set to enter RS unopposed



Rajeev Kumar, Babul Supriyo, Koel Mallick and Maneka Guruswamy show victory signs after filing their nominations for the Rajya Sabha seats in Calcutta on Thursday. (PTI picture)

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: Five Rajya Sabha candidates from Bengal — four from the Trinamool Congress and one from the BJP — filed their nominations on Thursday, the last day to do so.

Since there are only five nominations for the equal number of vacancies, all the candidates are poised to win unopposed.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on Friday. If none of the five withdraws the nomination by Monday, they will be handed their victory certificates.

Trinamool has nominated retired IPS officer Rajeev Kumar, actor Koel Mallick, lawyer Maneka Guruswamy and singer-actor Babul Supriyo (the state's outgoing IT minister) to the Upper House.

They thanked Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and her apparent, Abhishek Banerjee, for the nomination.

Kumar's term as acting DGP had ended earlier this



Rahul Sinha shows a victory sign after filing the nomination. (PTI picture)

While the four Trinamool candidates filed the papers smoothly, the process was not glitch-free for Sinha. BJP sources said that although Sinha was the first to arrive at the Assembly, he could not complete the process early, as some crucial documents were missing. A BJP leader said that after all necessary documents were collected, Sinha filed his nomination late in the afternoon.

With the impending election of Kumar, Mallick, Guruswamy and Supriyo, Trinamool will have 13 members in the Rajya Sabha from among Bengal's 16. The BJP will have three after Sinha's election. The two MPs' term will start in April and end in 2032. For the first time since Independence, the state has no Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha representative from the Left, with the term of the CPI(M) Bhaskar Banjan Bhattacharyya in the Upper House set to end in April.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi is Rahul Sinha, who contested Lok Sabha and Assembly elections unsuccessfully nine times since 1998.

Wild boar menace in Jalpaiguri block

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jalpaiguri: Multiple run-ins with wild boars over the last five days have sparked panic among residents of Nagrakata block in Jalpaiguri district.

A person was killed and five others were injured in similar incidents.

A motorcycle carrying three people lost control after encountering a herd of wild boars on the road connecting Bamanganga to Tondou on February 28. Sidhu Manki Munda, 60, died on the spot. The other two were seriously injured.

A source said the riders were speeding to escape a wild elephant when they came across the wild boar herd.

The injured were taken to the block health centre in Sulokpara and later shifted to the superspecialty hospital in Malabar.

On March 2, a couple from the Bamanganga tea estate were hurt in a similar incident.

Lalbahen Lohar, 35, and his wife, Sushanti Lohar, 26, were going to Shulkpara by scooter through the Gorumara National Park when a herd of wild boars appeared at a bend. Sushanti, who was driving, slammed the brakes and they fell off the two-wheeler.

Sushanti's brother, Anchal Lohar, took them to the block health centre. They were later referred to Malabar for further treatment.

Forest officials from the Khuma forest range visited the hospital. Nirmal Ekka, the range officer, said the injured were compensated as per the norm.

On March 3, a worker was attacked by a wild boar while plucking tea leaves at the block's Jit tea estate. The injured is Sangram Lohar, 45, a resident of Nagtore tea estate.

Eyewitnesses said the boar pounced on Sangram from the bushes. The animal injured Sangram's thigh with its tusks and fled. He is also being treated in Malabar.

Cong dharna for clean voter list

SOUMYA DE SARKAR

Malda: Congress leaders launched an indefinite sit-in demonstration in Malda town on Thursday, protesting against the inclusion of more than eight lakh voters of the district in the category of "under adjudication" on the preliminary "final" list published by the Election Commission on February 28.

The protest was led by Mausam Noor, a former MP

who recently returned to the Congress after a seven-year stint with the Trinamool Congress. Over senior district Congress leaders and former MLAs, including Bhupendranath Halder and Motaklin Alam, joined the demonstration.

On the first day, the protest began at 10am and continued till 6pm.

Speaking to reporters, Noor said the demonstration was organised to highlight

the concerns of several voters whose voting rights remained uncertain. She said many of them placed under adjudication had already appeared for hearings before the EC and submitted the necessary documents.

"The demonstration was organised to voice the grievances of lakhs of innocent people who are now uncertain about their franchise. Voting is their democratic right as Indian citizens. Many had only

minor logical discrepancies in documents, yet they have been kept under adjudication," Noor said.

During the protest, Congress leaders and workers held placards bearing slogans such as "Am I a Rohingya?" and "Am I a Bangladeshi?" expressing concern over the scrutiny process.

Noor said many Muslim leaders and workers were participating in the protest while observing Ramadan fast.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of Properties & Owner's name	A) Date of Demand Notice B) Amount of Demand C) Date of Possession D) Possession Symbolic/Physical	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	Branch : Badgpur (036228) Borrower : Rajendra Nath Kumar A/c No. 03623005093 Bharat Kumar (Legal Heir of Rajendra Nath Kumar) W/o Shishu Kumar Vib. Bhonpur PS: Pandua, Dist. Hooghly PIN: 712134 Jhuma Ghosh (Legal Heir of Rajendra Nath Kumar) D/o Shishu Kumar and W/o Sutaru Ghosh, Vib. Bhonpur PS: Pandua, Dist. Hooghly, PIN: 712134	All that piece and parcel of land and building situated at Dist. Hooghly, PS: Pandua, Mouza- Bhonpur J.L. No.- 12, RS Kh. No.- 197, LR Kh. No.- 1038, Plot No.- 63, Area-13 Decimals more or less in the name of Rajendra Nath Kumar S/o Late Shishu Kumar as per Deed No. 103353/2014 registered at A.D.S.R. Pandua, Hooghly	A) 18.09.2023 B) Rs. 4,45,488.42 (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight and Forty Two Paise Only) as on 31.08.2023 at the contracted rate until payment in full C) 16.01.2024 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 18,41,500.00 B) Rs. 1,84,150.00 C) Rs. 25,000.00	27.03.2026 From 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.	Not Known to Bank at present
2	Branch : Bolpur Bhubandanga (062620) Borrower : Debasis Roy Son of Bijoy Roy A/c No. 06262005463 Co-Borrower: Smt. Patal Roy W/o Bijoy Roy Guarantor: Subhashish Roy S/o Bijoy Roy Address of All - Smt. Patal Roy, Smt. Nivedita Roy, P.O. Bolpur, District - Bolpur, PIN- 712024, West Bengal	All that piece and parcel of land and building situated at Dist. : Bolpur, Mouza- Bardighora, J.L. No.- 100, Kh. No.- 793, S.R. Kh. No.- 1872, RS Plot No.- 1098, LR Plot No.- 2225, Area- 864.57 sq. ft. more or less in the name of Smt. Patal Roy W/o Sri Bijoy K. Roy as per Sale Deed No. 030205/2011 registered at A.D.S.R. Bolpur.	A) 02.11.2021 B) Rs. 17,13,187.91 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty Seven and Ninety One Paise Only) as on 30.10.2021 with further interest until payment in full C) 27.01.2022 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 17,00,000.00 B) Rs. 1,70,000.00 C) Rs. 25,000.00	27.03.2026 From 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.	Not Known to Bank at present

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- For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://banknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in.
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- Applicable taxes will be borne extra

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Mr. Abhiram Kumar, Chief Manager and Authorised Officer Mob. 7087851697

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