

No trace yet of kidnapped Rangamati fishermen
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Five fishermen, kidnapped by unknown criminals from bordering Tabalabug area under Barkal upazila at midnight on Sunday, are yet to be traced.

The abducted fishermen are Ramzan Ali, 25, Yusuf Ali, 30, Mokhles Ali, 22, Jahed Ali, 20, and Azahar Ali, 27. They all are from Bhusinchhara union in the upazila.

BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) sources said the five settlers went to Tabalabagh area for fishing on Sunday night without taking permission from them.

At a flag meeting on Thegamukh border on Tuesday, BGB and BSF discussed joint efforts to trace and rescue the abducted fishermen.

The border guards of both India and Bangladesh have also geared up patrol and surveillance at the frontier, said Maj Ziaul Haque of Chhotohorina zone.

Bhusinchhara Union Parishad Chairman Dilip Kumar Chakma said a tense situation has been prevailing in different areas of the union since Monday as the abducted fishermen men are from this union.

A meeting was also held at BGB Chhotohorina zone yesterday where the prevailing situation in Bhusinchhara union came up in the discussion. Barkal upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), all UP chairmen, headmen, Karbaries and Banglali settlers' leaders were present.

"We requested the UP chairmen, members, headmen and Karbaries to maintain a peaceful situation in their respective areas," said UNO Md Saif Uddin.



PHOTO: STAR

This 120-year-old sub post office at Ratanganj in Narail town has become awfully dilapidated, exposing the staff and visitors to serious accident anytime.

NARAIL HEAD, SUB-POST OFFICES

24 work in awfully risky buildings

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Twenty-four staffs working at Narail district head post office and the sub post office at Ratanganj pass their office hours amid panic as the two office buildings have turned awfully risky due to lack of repair.

The buildings of the head post office of Narail district and Ratanganj sub post office in Narail municipality, both two-storied ones, were established in 1984 and 1890, official sources said.

During a visit of the two offices a couple of days ago, this correspondent found rod of roofs exposed at many places and several cracks on the walls. Chunks of plaster fallen off roofs and walls were seen on the floors. Hanging electric cables pose risk for employees and visitors at the head post office.

The staffs at Ratanganj sub post office were seen working in candle light as electricity was disconnected due to miserable condition of the building.

The district head post office building houses the postmaster's residence on the first floor and the post office on the ground floor.

"Several lakh record books and valuable documents kept in the building are getting

damaged as rainwater enters the building through walls. The postmaster's residence has remained vacant for four years ago due to its dilapidated condition," said Munshi Asaduzzaman, district postmaster.

"We sent several letters to the higher authority concerned demanding immediate renovation of the building but to no effect," he added.

"We are working here amid life risk as chunks of plaster often fall off. Rainwater entering the building causes damage to valuable documents. After construction in 1984, this building saw no repair works," said Md Mizanur Rahman, assistance postmaster of the district post office.

Meherunessa Merry, sub postmaster of Ratanganj post office, said, "We are under risk of accident anytime as we work on the ground floor of the dilapidated two-storied building. Its first floor, earlier used as the residence of the sub postmaster, has remained vacant for ten years due to its risky condition."

When contacted, Md Nazrul Islam, post office inspector in Jessor, said, "We have given detailed information to our higher authorities about the condition of the two post office buildings and are waiting for result."

On October 13 this year, the BTCL authority filed a

Telephone wire theft rampant in Dinajpur

A large number of subscribers want to snap connections

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Around nine thousand metres of telephone wire of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) were stolen from different areas under Dinajpur municipality from August 1 to October 30, BTCL official sources said.

"My BTCL line cables were stolen two times in a month," said Md Akram Talukder, a land phone subscriber at Bahadurbazar of Dinajpur municipality.

"It took 20 days to restore my telephone connection," said Md Rezaur Rahman, a resident of Patuapara in the town.

There are 12,967 telephone subscribers under Dinajpur BTCL exchange but a large number of them submitted applications to cancel their subscription as frequent cable stealing and other problems have become a nagging problem for them, sources said.

The situation threatens revenue earning by the state-owned phone company.

When telephone cables are stolen, subscribers have to bear its expenses to restore the connection, said several affected people.

On October 13 this year, the BTCL authority filed a

complaint to the superintendent of police of Dinajpur regarding frequent stealing incidents of BTCL telephone cables in the district down.

The BTCL officials of Dinajpur also reported the matter at the monthly law and order meeting held at Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's office on October 30, sources said.

The BTCL authority filed another complaint on November 3 mentioning specific numbers, length of cables and areas.

"Cable stealing incidents have risen in the district in recent months. We have not seen any improvement even after filing the complaints," said a BTCL official seeking anonymity.

"Frequent cable stealing badly affects service of the company. We filed two complaints at Dinajpur police superintendent's office within a month," said Md Ziaul Karim, divisional engineer of Dinajpur BTCL.

Several victims of cable stealing incidents also filed general diaries with Dinajpur police station.

However, Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Md Mainul Islam said that the BTCL authority of Dinajpur is yet to file any complaint to them.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Bullet from own gun kills cop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A policeman was killed by a bullet from his own gun while he was on duty in Phulpur upazila on Wednesday evening. The deceased, Mozammel Haque, 51 of Chak Amdaria area in Sherpur upazila, was a constable of Parakanda police station. A bullet from Mozammel's own rifle pierced through his head, killing him instantly, said Narendra Nath Sarkar, officer in-charge of the police station.

Outlaw murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered the body of an alleged outlaw from Amjhupi village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The deceased, Dulal Hossain, 40 son of late Shofiuddin of Islammagar village, was an activist of Purbabanglar Communist Party (PBCP). Jahangir Alam, officer in-charge of Meherpur police station, said on information, they rushed to the spot and found Dulal's body lying on a field in the village. Dulal was accused in a number of cases including for murder. He might have been killed by his party rival, said the OC.

Housewife found dead

UNB, Narayanganj

Police recovered the body of a housewife from her house in Baktabali Rajapur area of Fatulla early Wednesday. The deceased was Parvin Akter, 32, wife of Sohel Miah of the area. Abdul Matin, officer in-charge of Fatulla Model police station, said on information, they rushed to the spot and recovered the body hanging from the ceiling of the house early in the morning. It could not be ascertained whether she committed suicide or was hanged after killing. Parvin's husband went into hiding.



COURTESY: MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Commerce Secretary Md Golam Hossain releases two wild cats, a python and two storks, earlier caught by locals, to Lawachhara Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar district recently. Sitesh Ranjan Dev, founder of private wildlife sanctuary Banyaprani Seba Ashram, arranged the programme.

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