

DEMAND FOR RESCUE OF 5 ABDUCTED FISHERMEN

# Agitators vandalise Rangamati DC office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A group of people, agitating for steps to rescue five abducted fishermen in the district, vandalised Rangamati deputy commissioner's (DC) office yesterday.

Over a hundred Bangalee settlers from Bhusionchhara union in Barkal upazila under the district demonstrated in Rangamati town demanding steps to rescue the fishermen kidnapped on December 6 from Bangladesh-India border at Tabalabug in Borohorina union of Barkal upazila.

The people under the banner of 'Bhusionchhara Bangalee Oikya Parishad' had a plan to submit a memorandum to the DC to take step for rescue the five fishermen, all hailing from Bhusionchhara union.

But when the demonstrators reached the DC office, suddenly they turned unruly and started vandalising the flower pots, windowpanes and furniture there.

At one stage, police went into action and brought the situation under control.

Fifteen people were arrested in connection with the incident and process was on to file cases against the arrestees, said Liton Ghosh, assistant sub-inspector of Kotwali police station.

Barkal police on December 19 arrested Dilip Kumar Chakma, chairman of Bhusionchhara union parishad, and placed him on two-day remand as Md Abed Ali, father of kidnapped fisherman Ramjan Ali, filed an abduction case with

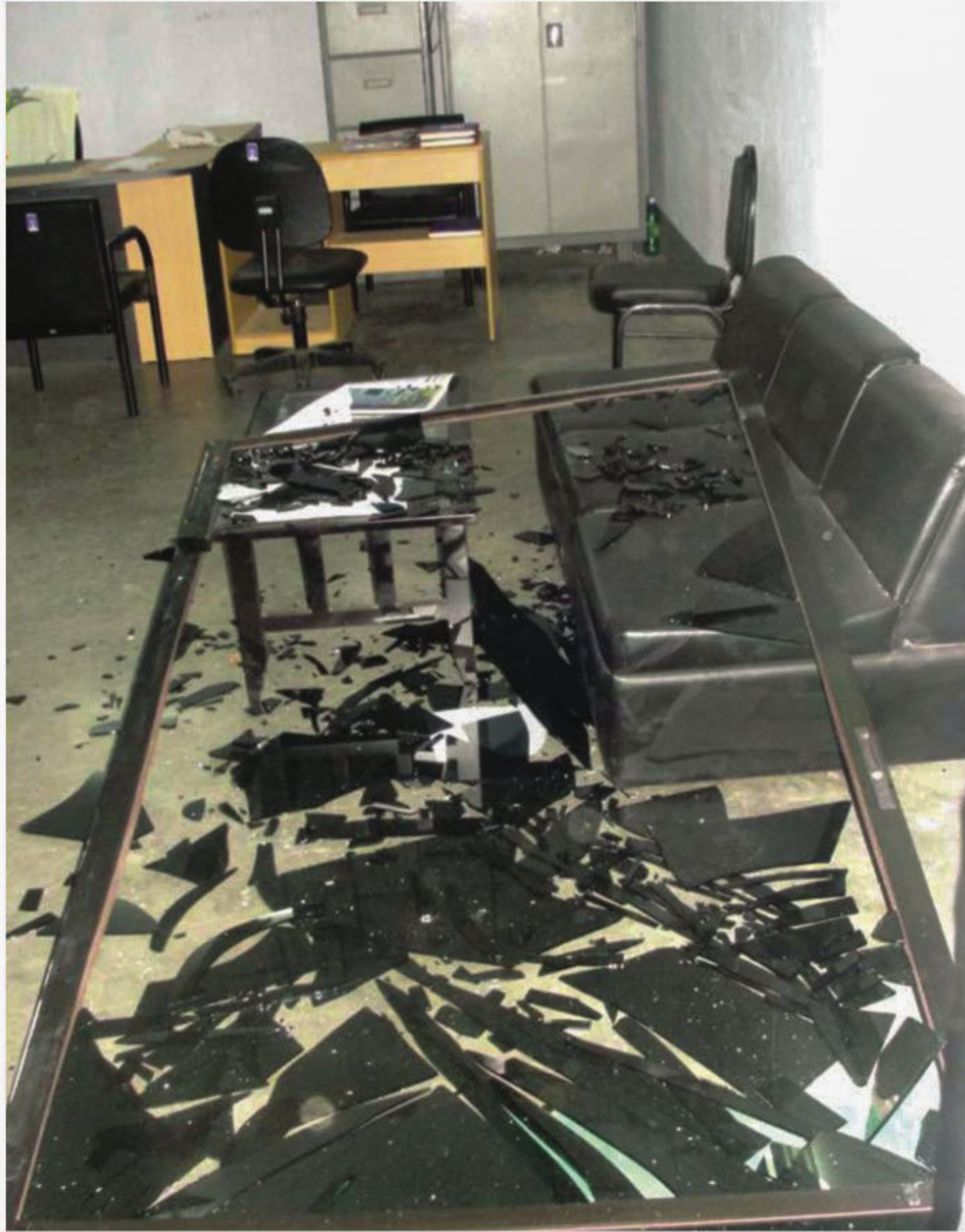


PHOTO: STAR

A room of Rangamati deputy commissioner's office lies vandalised as a group of unruly people, demonstrating for the rescue of five fishermen kidnapped from a border area of the district on December 6, went on a rampage at the office yesterday.

Barkal police station against 24 people including the UP chairman.

Criminals kidnapped five fishermen, namely, Ramjan Ali, 25, Mokhes Ali, 22,

Zahed Ali, 20, Azahar Ali, 27, and Yousuf Ali, 30, from bordering Tabalabug area when they went there for fishing on December 6.

They went to the border

area at midnight that day without permission from the authorities of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and have remained traceless since the incident, BGB sources said.

## Free textbooks cost kids Tk 50 to 70!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Runa Khatun, a Class three student of Uttar Shalgaria Government Primary School in Pabna town, went to receive new textbooks meant for free distribution but she returned empty handed for failure to pay Tk 60.

Many other students faced the same situation as they went to their schools for the same purpose yesterday, the first day of the new year.

"Tk 60 is too much for me but I will have to manage it for my daughter," said Runa's father, a poor rickshawpuller.

Visiting many schools in the district town, this correspondent learnt that different schools are taking Tk 50 to 70 from students in the name of sports

fees, milad mahfil fees and sweepers' costs and so on during distribution of textbooks.

Mostafa Rahat of Class five and Arefin of Class four of Shibrapur Primary School in the municipality area said they had to give Tk 50 each for new books.

Still they are luckier than many of their fellows who failed to get new books on the first day of the year.

Asked about the matter, school Headmaster Md Enamul Kabir said, "We are not forcing the students. We need a huge amount of money every year for observing different programmes like annual sports and milad mahfil. Besides, we have appointed cleaners to keep the school clean. As there is no government fund

for the purpose, we collect some money for maintaining such expenses."

"The government does not allocate any fund for children's sports or other functions of the school. So we collect some amount from the children before giving new books. But we do not force any children," said Saroj Kumar Sanyal, headmaster of Ichhamati Government Primary School.

Asked about the matter, District Primary Education Officer Md Ekramul Haque said, "The government is providing new books for the children free of cost for promoting education. It is illegal to collect money from the children during disbursement of new books. We will investigate the allegations regarding the matter."

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## SNIPPETS

### Arms, ammo recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a revolver, one pistol and eight bullets from a train at Natore Railway Station early yesterday. However, no one was arrested, said Rab. On secret information, a team of Rab-5 raided a Rajshahi-bound Titumir Express Train at about 12:30am and recovered the arms and ammunition.

### Fire kills 6 cows

UNB, Moulvibazar

Six cows were killed and other valuables burnt in a devastating fire broke out at a dairy farm at Basudevsvri village in Sadar upazila on Thursday night. Fire service sources said the flame originated from a mosquito coil at the farm of Wahidur Rahman of the village at around 8:00pm and soon engulfed the entire farm leaving six Australian cows killed. On information, fire fighters from Sadar headquarters rushed to the spot and doused the flame. Fire service sources estimated the extent of loss from the blaze about Tk 20 lakh.

### Robbers loot expatriate's house

UNB, Sylhet

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh from an expatriate's house at Chatul Muktapur village in Kanaighat upazila early Saturday. A gang of 8/10 entered the house of Dubai expatriate Yahia Miah breaking the door and at one stage, shot Yahia, leaving him injured when he tried to resist them. Later, the bandits looted nine tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 4 lakh, two mobile sets and other valuables keeping the inmates hostage at gunpoint and fled the scene. Yahia was admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered a local made pipe gun.

### Youth murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Criminals killed a young man in Ranbagha area of Singra upazila on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Md Shafiqul Islam, 22, son of Md Abdul Jalil of Bingham village in the upazila. Police said a gang of criminals stabbed Shafiqul near Ranbagha Bazar at about 10:00pm. Md Fayezur Rahman, officer in-charge of Singra Police Station, said on information, police recovered the body from the spot yesterday morning and sent it to Natore Sadar Hospiatl morgue for autopsy. The gang might have killed the victim over previous enmity, the OC added.

## Rly demolishes illegal structures on its land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Railway authorities demolished 68 illegal shops on its land near Chapainawabganj Railway Station in the last two days.

Divisional land officer of Railway West Zone Kiron Chandra Roy, assistant state officer Asish Kumar Chakraborty, and executive magistrate Subrato Pal jointly launched the drive with the help of police and Rab personnel in the morning.

Kiron Chandra Roy said the land was acquired by the railway authorities from one Mir Kawsar Ali in 1927.

Later, Kawsar Ali's sons claimed the ownership of the land and filed a case with the district and sessions

judge's court in this regard. The court gave the verdict on September 9, 1986 in favour of Bangladesh Railway.

Following the court order, the railway authorities could not recover the land as Kawsar's sons filed a fresh case with the assistant judge' court that also gave its judgement in favour of Bangladesh Railway.

After the court order, the railway authorities served notice on the illegal occupiers, asking it to vacate the land by December 29.

"As they land grabbers did not comply with the order, we launched the drive and recovered the land, demolishing illegal structures erected on it (land)," the divisional land officer said.

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