

# Company disappears with Tk 50cr of depositors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

All the officials and employees of a financial organisation named 'RDP Finance and Investment MCS Ltd' went into hiding allegedly after embezzling about Tk 50 crore from a few thousand depositors in three upazilas under the district.

On Monday, a good number of depositors went to the organisation office in the town to receive money as per commitment of its staff, but it was found under lock and key and the cell phones of the staff remained switched off.

The organisation started its activities in a hired building on Patuakhali Sadar Road in 2012 with Ibrahim Khalil, former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir's Narayanganj district unit, working as its chairman.

They opened two branch offices in Baufal and Galachipa upazilas in the district the same year and collected about 5,000 members, saying that Tk 1,200 to 1500 would be given as monthly interest against the deposit of Tk one lakh.

There was arrangement of daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis deposit for the savings.

"I deposited Tk 700 to RDP every week and the total



PHOTO: STAR

Swindler organisation RDP Finance and Investment MCS Ltd operated from a rented office on the second floor of this building in Patuakhali town.

amount stood at about 26,000 this week. I have pass book and money receipts regarding it," said Monir Hossain, a resident of Baromasjid area in the town.

"As officials fixed Monday for paying back my total deposit, I went to the office around 10:30am but found it locked. Like me, over 100 depositors came to the office for the same purpose, only to be

frustrated," he said.

After hearing the news of the RDP staff's disappearance, many subscribers thronged the office premises but they failed to get anyone.

"I deposited Tk 500 under a monthly deposit scheme for two years as they told me that it is running according to Islami Shariah. But now I realise that they are cheat," said Abul Kalam of Swanirvar Road area.

Gazi Hafizur Rahman Shabir, owner of the building that houses the office, said, "RDP hired a floor of my building for three years and the term would end in June this year. I don't know about their activities."

Contacted, SM Ziaul haque, OC of Patuakhali Police Station, said, "If anybody files case or submits written complaint,

# Robber killed in 'gunfight' with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A robber was killed and another injured in a 'gunfight' with police in Khulna city on Tuesday night.

The deceased is Al Mamun, 38, son of Abdul Jalil of Khalishpur area in the city.

The injured, Faruk Hossain, 24, son of Shamsul Haque of Harintana area in the city, is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital, said police.

During patrol duty at around 1.45 pm on Tuesday in Roypara area in the city, Sub-Inspector Arun Kumar Das and Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Aziz of Sadar Police Station arrested the duo along with three pistols, one revolver and 23 bullets.

On the basis of their statements, a special team, led by Officer-in-Charge Sukumer Biswas, went to Bagmara Burir Bagan area in the city along with the two robbers to arrest their cohorts and recover firearms at around 8.30 pm, said Assistant Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, Ziauddin Ahmed.

Sensing the presence of the policemen, the cohorts of the robbers opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

At one stage, the robbers retreated. Police found Al Mamun dead and Faruk injured.

Police claimed that one shutter gun, four bullets and two hand bombs were recovered from the scene.

## INTERNAL FEUD

### BCL leader hacked in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was hacked allegedly by his party men at Pukhuria bus stand in Ghior upazila on Tuesday night.

The injured is Russel Ovi, former vice president of Manikganj district unit of BCL.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then shifted to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the capital as his condition deteriorated.

Habibur Rahman, president of the upazila unit of Awami League, said a gang of 8/10 allegedly led by Ifti Arif, former vice president of Government Debendra College unit of BCL, hacked Russel while he was sitting at a salon in the area around 9:00pm.

The attack was carried out over internal feud, he added.

Contacted, Arif refuted the allegation of attack on Russel.

Punitive action would be taken against those responsible for the attack after getting complaint in this regard, said Shawkat Alam, officer-in-charge of Ghior Police Station.

### Bomb attack on police patrol team

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A police patrol team came under bomb attack at Kazipur village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday.

The law enforcers arrested an alleged attacker, Atiar Rahman, who sustained injuries while hurling bombs at the team.

An additional Superintendent of Police Azbahar Ali Sheikh said when a team from Kazipur police camp was patrolling in the border area, a gang of drug peddlers blasted two bombs in front of the police van.

Atiar had his right hand blown off in the blast.

He was admitted to Meherpur General Hospital, said the ASP.

# 150 illegal structures on railway land demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The authorities of Bangladesh Railway on Tuesday knocked down some 150 illegal structures, including a two-storied market and a residential hotel, on railway land beside Chatmohar Railway Station in Pabna.

Moshtaque Ahmed, estate officer of railway in Pakshey division, and Mizanur Rahman, executive magistrate, led the drive with the help of the local administration and law enforcement agencies.

"Influential people illegally occupied the land in Chatmohar station area and built hundreds of structures, including a concrete market, along the rail tracks. Due to the lack of manpower, we could not conduct a drive earlier," Md Robiul Islam, assistant estate officer of Railway Pakshey division, said. The drive will continue, he added.

"The railway authorities conducted the drive without issuing prior notices, causing huge loss to the traders," evicted traders alleged.

Mulgram Union Parishad Chairman Gias Uddin demanded compensation for the evicted traders, saying the railway authorities had not stopped building of the market earlier. The traders are facing huge loss due to sudden eviction so they should be compensated, he added.

Grabbers occupied railway land and constructed market and shops illegally so the railway is not responsible for that, Robiul Islam said, adding that the railway authorities had earlier informed them about the



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Railway authorities conduct a drive to remove illegal structures from the railway land yesterday, knocking down around 150 structures. The photo was taken from Chatmohar Railway Station in Pabna district.

# 2 housewives murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were murdered allegedly by their husbands in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat and Sadar upazila of Manikganj districts yesterday and the day before.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband over family feud at Dhapkathali village in Kalai upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Rowshan Ara, 20, wife of Abdul Karim.

Police said Karim married Rowshan, daughter of late Abdur Rahman of Khetlal upazila of the district, a year ago. After having dinner on Tuesday night, they engaged in an altercation over a trivial matter at around 2:00am. At one stage, Karim strangled his wife to death.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. They also arrested Karim.

In Manikganj, a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in Sadar upazila on Tuesday night, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Makhon Begum, 50, wife of Mofiz Uddin of Paschim Dashora village in the upazila.

Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police

# Abducted PWD employee rescued, 5 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Detectives rescued an employee of Public Works Department (PWD) in the district from Malgram Dakkhinpara area in the town yesterday, two days after his abduction.

They also arrested five people for their alleged involvement in the abduction, said Superintendent of Police Mozammel Haque.

The arrestees are Shohel Ahmed, 37, son of Abdul

Based, Md Rafi, 26, son of Lal Mia, Abdul Momin, 27, son of Khalilur Rahman, Md Jewel, 32, son of late Yunus Ali, and Sweetey, 35, daughter of late Yunus Ali of the area.

Police and family sources said a gang abducted Abdul Mannan, 48, work assistant of PWD, Bogra, when he was returning home from a site in Choksutrapur area of the town on May 4.

The kidnapers then took him to an unknown

place in the area and demanded Tk 8 lakh as ransom from his family over cellphone.

The following day, victim's brother Abu Sayeed Khan Ranju filed an abduction case with Sadar Police Station.

Early yesterday, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police, acting on a tip-off, raided the area and rescued Mannan. They also arrested the five from the spot, said police.



PHOTO: STAR

Detective Branch of Police rescued an abducted employee of Public Works Department from Malgram Dakkhinpara in Bogra town and arrested five people in connection with the incident yesterday.

# Madrasa boy drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A madrasa student drowned in a pond at Phulbaria upazila headquarters of the district yesterday.

He was identified as Rifat Hossain, 10, son of Zakirul Islam of Baidhyabari village in the upazila.

Police and local people said Rifat, a student of Kasimul Ullam Hafezia Madrasa at the upazila headquarters, went to take a bath along with other students in the pond near the madrasa. Suddenly he drowned in the pond.

Hearing screams of other students, locals rushed to the spot and recovered the body around 12.00 noon, said Rifat Khan Rajib, officer-in-charge of Phulbaria Police Station.

# Land disputes leave two dead, 15 hurt in two dist

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and 15 others injured over land disputes in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi and Kalmakanda upazila of Netrokona districts yesterday and the day before.

In Rajshahi, a farmer was killed and six others were injured in a clash over the ownership of a disputed land at Barinnagar village in Godagari upazila yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased is Arshad Ali, 55, a resident of the village. Quoting victim's family members, police said there had been a long-standing dispute between Arshad and his neighbour Zahir Haji over the land at the village.

As Zahir went to cultivate the land in the morning, Arshad locked in an altercation with him. At one stage, the supporters of the two swooped on each other, leaving Arshad dead and six others injured, said SM Abu Farhad, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station.

Our Netrokona correspondent reported

that a man was killed and nine others were injured in a clash over a land dispute at Paskata village in Kalmakanda upazila on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Janu Mia, 55. Of the injured, Janu's wife Khadeja Begum, 45, and two sons Raham Ali, 24, and Amchar Ali, 22, are now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Police said there had been a long-standing rivalry between Janu and Amir Hosain of the village over the ownership of 32 decimals of land.

When Janu and his men went to the land for harvesting paddy around 7:00am, a group of 14/15 men, led by Amir, attacked them with sharp weapons leaving Janu dead on the spot and nine others injured.

Victim's son Fazil Ali filed a murder case with Kalmakanda Police Station, accusing 34 people yesterday, said Bashir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested five people of the village for their alleged involvement in the clash. The arrestees are Abul Hosain, Din Islam, Haidar Ali and Kamal Uddin.

## ADMISSION TEST OF BEGUM ROKEYA UNIV

### Two fake examinees jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A student of Dhaka University (DU) and another of Jagannath University (JnU) were awarded imprisonment for writing on behalf of two candidates during the admission test of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) on Tuesday afternoon.

The convicts are Md Habibur Rahman, a first-year student of management of DU, and Md Ariful Islam,

a first-year student of mass communication and journalism of JnU.

Habibur Rahman was caught red-handed when he was attending 'B' unit admission test at the academic building examination centre on behalf of one Mahfuz Islam Tuesday afternoon, said Mohammad Ali, information and public relations officer of the university.

Ariful Islam was caught at Rangpur Shishu Niketan High School examination centre for doing the same

for one Labib Hossain, he said.

The university authorities produced Habibur Rahman before a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Naznin Sultana and the court sentenced him to one year's imprisonment.

Md Ariful Islam was given imprisonment for five days after he was produced before a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate SM Nazia Sultana.

The two convicts were sent to Rangpur Central Jail on Tuesday evening.

# Eight rescued while being trafficked to India

### Three return home from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained eight Bangladeshi nationals from Putkhalai border under Benapole Port Police Station while they were being trafficked to India through the border on Tuesday night.

Firoz Khan, sub-inspector of Benapole Port Police Station, said a team of the border guards, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in the area around 10:30pm and rescued the eight.

The traffickers, however,

fled the scene, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the SI added.

Quoting the victims, police said a gang of traffickers brought them to Putkhalai from different areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj and Noakhali districts.

BGB later handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station. A case was filed with the police station in this connection.

Meanwhile, three Bangladeshi girls returned home on Monday night on expiry of their jail term in India.

Indian immigration police handed them over to

their Bangladeshi counterpart at Benapole check post around 8:00pm.

The returnees are Anwara Begum, 20, Jannatul Ferdous, 19, and Parvin Akter, 18. They all hail from different areas of Khulna, Jessore and Laxmipur districts.

Aslam Khan, officer-in-charge of Benapole check post immigration police, said Indian police arrested them from Kolkata railway station on charge of intrusion two years back.

Later, an Indian court sentenced them to two-year imprisonment for entering the country without valid



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad forms human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday demanding punishment to the perpetrators of sexual harassment of several women near the TSC at Dhaka University campus during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14.