

Cooperative firm vanishes with depositors' money

Over a thousand people cheated by the swindler company in Dumki upazila

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Officials of a cooperative firm in Dumki upazila under the district have disappeared after embezzling several crore taka from over a thousand people.

Around five years ago, the firm named Joint Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd started its activities including daily, monthly, yearly savings and real estate schemes and also micro credit at a rented house in Dumki upazila town in Patuakhali district, subscribers said.

With its head office at Block A in Rupatali Housing in Barisal divisional city, the firm also spread its activities in different district and upazila towns including Barisal Sadar, Babuganj, Ujirpur, Bakherganj in Barisal district, Dumki, Baufal, Kalapara, Mirzaganj, Galachipa in Patuakhali and in Bhola district.

Sensing that some high officials of the company were misappropriating money, quite a few subscribers in Dumki upazila wanted to withdraw their deposit but the authority turned down the requests under the pretext of fund crisis.

"I deposited Tk 13 lakh in real estate scheme of the firm. Now I am trying to withdraw the money anyhow," said Md Azad of Pirtala Bazar in Dumki upazila town.

"I deposited Tk 79,000 in a three-year deposit



PHOTO: STAR

Joint Savings and Credit Cooperative Society in Dumki upazila under Patuakhali district remains locked as its officials went into hiding after embezzling several crore taka from depositors.

scheme that has already matured. But the company officials fled without paying my money," said Afroza Begum of the same upazila.

Like them, around one thousand subscribers were cheated by the firm as officials including Md Sultan Ahmed, chairman of the firm's Dumki unit, went into hiding, said locals.

Now only a peon is found at the office.

Finding Enayet Hossen Howlader, a director of the firm at Pirtala Bazar on

February 11 noon, a few subscribers blocked his way when he fled away, leaving his motorbike there.

"Nasir Uddin, a director of the firm, built a multi-storied building at Rajakhali beside Patuakhali-Baufal road with the money embezzled from the subscribers. Another director Basir Uddin Mridha also built a house on Janata College Road in Dumki town," said Ashrafur Islam, a depositor.

This correspondent tried

to communicate with Sultan Ahmed, chairman of the firm, but he cut phone connections several times after getting the caller's identity.

"Five cases were filed against the chairman and directors with different police stations in Patuakhali and the court issued warrant of arrest in two cases. We are trying our best to arrest the accused," said Azam Khan Faruque, officer in charge of Dumki Police Station.

BSF picks up fisherman from Teesta River

UNB, Nilphamari

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi fisherman from the Teesta River in Dimla upazila of the district on Monday evening.

The victim was identified as Mosharraf Hossain, 35, son of late Abdus Samad of Charkhibari village under Tepakhribari union of the upazila.

UP Chairman Rabiul Islam Shahin said BSF members picked up Mosharraf from the river while he was fishing in the river in Charkhibari area.

Contacted, Charkhibari Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) camp commander Nayek Subedar Mohsin Ali Chowdhury said they had sent a letter to BSF, demanding return of Mosharraf.

BRTC driver held on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested a driver of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) of Bogra depot in the district town yesterday in a case for violating a female employee of the depot.

The arrestee is Abul Bashar, 38, son of Rafiqul Islam of Kantabazar of Faridganj under Chandpur district. He currently lives in Khandar area of Bogra town.

According to the case statement, the victim is daughter of a late BRTC driver under the depot.

After the demise of her father, the depot authorities appointed her as a computer operator on temporary basis.

The accused developed a relationship with the staff. On February 9, he lured her into a house in Khandar area of the town and raped her. Later, a case was filed.

DAKHIL EXAM

5 teachers punished for solving leaked questions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A mobile court yesterday arrested two principals and three madrasa teachers for solving the English 2nd paper questions during the exams at Uzirpur Dakhil exam centre in Barisal district.

On secret information, Jhumur Bala, the upazila nirbahi officer of Uzirpur, and a police team raided a house near the exam hall and caught three teachers red-handed while they were solving the question paper. The two principals were arrested from the exam centre, the UNO said.

The arrestees are Muktar Hossain, principal of Kalihata Alim Madrasa and also the superintendent of the exam hall, Md Ibrahim, principal of Sakhrail Madrasa and also member of the examination committee, and Md Ramij Uddin, Md Rafiqul Islam and Md Faruk Hossain, teachers of Sakhrail Madrasa in Uzirpur.

The principals took photographs of the

question papers and handed them to some teachers who were ready to answer the questions, the arrested teachers said.

Two cell phones that were used for question leakage were seized from their possession, and some photographs of the question papers were found in them, the UNO said.

The two principals have been suspended from their exam duties.

The arrestees were produced before a mobile court led by the UNO, also the executive magistrate, said Md Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Uzirpur Police Station.

English teacher Faruk was awarded one year's imprisonment. The others were fined Tk 20,000 each, in default to suffer one month's imprisonment, added the OC.

"I did not know anything about the question leakage and allegations against me are false. I did not even know that I was fined by a mobile court," Muktar Hossain said.

Dense fog disrupts ferry service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Paturia-Daulatdia ferry service resumed after five hours yesterday morning. The service was disrupted from 4:00am due to dense fog.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) sources said six ferries – Shah Ali, Bhasha Shaheed Barkat, Birshreshtha

Motuir Rahman, Rajanigandha, Hasnahena and Kabery – with hundreds of passengers were anchored in the middle of the Padma River.

Mohiuddin Rasel, manager (Commerce) of BIWTC at Aricha, said the ferry service had to be stopped to avert accident as no signal light or beacon could be seen from 4:00am due to dense fog. The service resumed at 9:00am, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE)
Room # 427/B, Building # 07, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
Memo No. 40.00.000.011.047.04.15-88 Date: 15 February-2016

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2	Agency	N/A
3	Procuring entity name	Secretary
4	Procuring entity code	None
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Tender for procurement.
7	Invitation Ref No. & date	Memo No. 40.00.000.011.047.04.15-88 Date: 15 February-2016.

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget & source of funds	GOB
10	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/programme code	N/A
12	Tender package No.	01 (one).
13	Tender package name	Supply of Heavy Duty Rugged Construction CNG-Converted Microbus (Min 12 persons sitting capacity).
14	Tender publication date	On or before 18 February-2016.
15	Tender selling date	From 18 February-2016 during office hours.
16	Tender drop closing date and time	09 March 2016 up to 2.00pm.
17	Tender opening date and time	10 March 2016 at 03.00pm, tenderers and their representatives are allowed to attend.
18	Name & address of the office(s) Selling tender document	Mr. Md. Shahjahan Miah, Deputy Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Labour and Employment Room # 426, Building No-7, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Telephone No: 02-9575587, Fax No: 02-9575583.
19	Name & address of the office(s) opening tender document	Attention: Mr. Miah Abdullah Mamun Additional Secretary (Admin) Room # 427/B, Building # 07, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Telephone: 95788402, Fax No: 02-9588433 E-mail address: mamun_abdullah@yahoo.com

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Eligibility of tenderer	i) The tenderer shall have a minimum of five years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. ii) The maximum two numbers of arbitration against the tenderer over a period last five years. iii) The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum two numbers supply contract of similar goods and related services within last five years. iv) Tenderer shall have to submit trade licence, Latest Income Tax clearance certificate & Latest VAT clearance certificate with the tender. v) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 40 lac. vi) Tenderer shall have to fulfill the requirements of TDS & PCC. vii) Bank solvency certificate.
21	Brief description of goods & physical services	Supply of Heavy Duty Rugged Construction CNG-converted Microbus (Min 12 persons sitting capacity). Microbus should have heavy duty min. 4 cylinder/4-Cycle, Water Cooled EFI/ECI/SOHC/DOCH Control System Petrol Engine with min. 4 (four) doors including back lift-up.

22	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in weeks/months
23	01	One Unit Microbus	Dhaka	3% of the quoted price	4 weeks from the date of contract signature.
24	Price of tender document	BDT 1,000.00 (one thousand) only.			
25	Form of tender security	In the form of a Bank Draft or Pay Order 10% of quoted price on any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Deputy Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Labour and Employment.			

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25	Name of official inviting tender	Mr. Miah Abdullah Mamun Additional Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Labour and Employment, Room # 427/B, Building # 07, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: 95788402, Fax No.: 02-9588433 E-mail address: mamun_abdullah@yahoo.com
26	Special instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Md. Shahjahan Miah
Deputy Secretary (Admin)
Phone: 02-9575584
Email: dsadmin@mole.gov.bd

SNIPPETS

Burglary at temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Gold and bronze ornaments worth around Tk 2 lakh were stolen from the district's central temple Sree Sree Kali Mandir early yesterday. Sree Shankar Chakrabarty, the priest of the temple, said, "This is the first time that a burglary has taken place in our temple, and we are very concerned about it." Sree Jibon Kumar Saha, president of the temple managing committee, said, "The thieves switched off the main switch of the temple before committing the burglary. We have lodged a case with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station in this regard." Govinda Saha, general secretary of the temple managing committee, said, "Police must take steps to recover the stolen ornaments and arrest the thieves. Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station, said police are trying to arrest the thieves and recover the ornaments stolen from the temple.

Robbers loot Tk 10 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Robbers looted valuables from a house and beat up the house owner in Khadimpara area under Sadar upazila of Sylhet district early yesterday. The victim is Sohel Ahmed, 45. A gang of armed robbers, numbering 10-12, stormed the house and kept the residents hostage at gunpoint, Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shah Paran Police Station, said, quoting locals. They then looted valuables worth Tk 10 lakh, including cash Tk 2 lakh, 10 tolas of gold ornaments and five mobile phone sets and fled with the booty. Sohel was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Locals claimed that frequent robberies were taking place in the area because law enforcers do not patrol there at night. Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 15 lakh from a house in the same area three days before, they said. On information, police visited the spot in the morning. The OC said police are trying to arrest the robbers.

PCJSS voices

FROM PAGE 16

grievances through an open letter, responding to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement in parliament about the status of the treaty.

The PM last week said 48 out of 72 clauses of the treaty that the government signed with PCJSS in 1997 had been implemented.

In the letter, PCJSS, however, said two-thirds of the main issues of the accord remained unaddressed.

Though the 22-year-long unrest in the hills ended in 1997, communal violence against indigenous people by Bangali settlers continued with the connivance of local administration and law enforcers. Land grabbing and violence against indigenous women also went on, according to the letter.

"Since the treaty was signed, 18 communal

attacks have been carried out on the jummas (hill people) by Bangali settlers," PCJSS said in the letter, adding that none of those involved in the attacks were tried.

Different decisions involving the CHT have been taken and implemented without any prior discussion with regional and three district hill councils, which were formed to devise their own development strategies, it claimed.

The PM in her reply to questions raised by Ushatun Talukder, lawmaker of a Rangamati constituency, did not give any timeline for the full implementation of the treaty.

"Through this it is proved that the government does not have any plan to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord," PCJSS said in the letter.

Woman killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Hariabari village in Sadar upazila of the district on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Shampa Khatun, 25, wife of Zahid Hossain of the village.

The family members said Shampa married Jahid five years ago, reports UNB.

After their marriage, Zahid and his family members often tortured Shampa for dowry,

alleged the victim's grandfather Alauddin Sardar.

They strangled Shampa following an altercation over the issue on Monday night.

A case was filed, accusing five people including husband Zahid in this connection, said Md Abdullah Al Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

The accused went into hiding soon after the incident, said the OC.

The body was sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, he said.

'MISAPPROPRIATION' OF STUDENTS' STIPENDS Guardians demand removal of headmaster

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Guardians formed a human chain in Goddimari area under Hatibandha upazila of the district yesterday, demanding removal of the headmaster of Goddimari High School as they said he had misappropriated students' stipends.

Noor Hossain, one of the participants in the human chain, said his daughter, a Class VIII student, didn't get full stipend money given by the government as the headmaster misappropriated 50 percent per cent of the amount in the name of buying sports equipment.

Akhimoni Akhter, a Class VII student, said she didn't get the entire stipend money this year as the headmaster took away 50 percent in the name of school's development work.

Khademul Basuniya, a former chairman of Goddimari Union Parishad, said they

will go for a tougher agitation programme if no action is taken against the headmaster within a week.

Freedom fighter Sirajul Islam said he personally met the headmaster and protested against misappropriation of students' stipend money. "Teachers of the school are also mentally harassed by the headmaster, but they don't dare to protest against him," he added.

Refuting the allegation, headmaster Ataur Rahman said some local people are conspiring against him as they don't want him as headmaster of the school. "I'm trying to do some development works at the school and ensure peaceful academic atmosphere, but I'm facing setbacks at every stage," he said.

Contacted, District Education Officer Moslem Uddin said he will take necessary steps after proper investigation if he gets a written complaint in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals form a human chain at Goddimari village in Hatibandha upazila under Lalmonirhat district yesterday protesting 'misappropriation of the students' stipend money and admission business' at Goddimari High School.