



One in 10 MFS users victims of fraud

Finds PRI survey on 7,279 users

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About one in ten mobile financial services users said they have been victims of fraud, found a survey, underscoring the need for boosting the security of the platform to thwart social engineering.

“If you extrapolate it to the national statistic of the sector, it literally means millions have suffered from fraud,” said Ashikur Rahman, senior economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), which surveyed 7,279 MFS users from 45 districts and 2,000 agents from 13 districts.

Of the respondents, 87 percent use bKash, 41 percent Nagad, 15 percent Rocket and 4 percent SureCash. As much as 91 percent of the respondents have their own accounts, while 5.6 percent were dependent on the agent for MFS transactions.

About 56 percent of the MFS users who were victims of fraud said either their PINs were compromised or the scams involved impersonation; 13 percent said their accounts were compromised.

The average size of loss from MFS fraud was about Tk 9,000.

About 30 percent of the fraud victims never had their complaints resolved.

The study found a strong link between the time required to address victims’ complaints and their decision to continue to use MFS.

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Sisters-in-law of Helena Khatun wail next to her dead body while it was being taken back to Char Kalurpara in Fulchhari union of Gaibandha’s Fulchhari upazila on a horse cart yesterday. As there is no medical facility within 40km of the char, and no roads or vehicles available either, Helena died on her way to the upazila health complex yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

12 hurt in clash over ‘having tea’

Incident involves students of Dhaka College, TTC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Crude bomb explosions and violent clashes took place last night as students of Dhaka College and Teachers’ Training College attacked each other.

The clash, which halted traffic movement for hours, took place after physical assault of three students of Dhaka College during an altercation “over tea”.

Twelve Dhaka College students were injured in the incident and they took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

“We are working to control the situation ... But the students are not listening to us,” Gias Uddin, an inspector of New Market Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police said the clash broke out around 8:30pm when students of Teachers’ Training College beat up three Dhaka College students over having tea in Central College.

Visiting the area, it was seen that Dhaka College Chhatra League activists with rods, sticks and machetes were surrounding Teachers’ Training College.

Inside, crude bombs exploded one after another.

All entrances to the college were closed due to the clashes. Students were throwing brick chunks from the roof of the academic building, while Dhaka College BCL activists from Mirpur Road.

Some students wearing t-shirts of Dhaka College

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WHO’S TO BLAME for Helena’s death?

Emergency patients of Fulchhari union suffer due to lack of medical facility

MOSTAFA SHABUI, from Gaibandha

Helena Khatun, 25, was about to give birth to her third child.

Due to sudden bleeding around 9:00am yesterday, she needed emergency care at a hospital.

Her husband Suja Mandal and nephew Asadul arranged “Jalchouki”, wooden planks held up by ropes and carried on the shoulders, and placed her on it. They then started towards the hospital on foot from their home in the remote Kalurpara Char in the Jamuna in Gaibandha’s Fulchhari upazila.

However, as the nearest medical facility -- Fulchhari Upazila Health Complex -- was almost 40km away, Helena ultimately bled to death by the time she could reach Fulchhari launch terminal (30km from the complex) around 1:00pm.

Kalurpara Char is located around 10km off the bank of the mighty Jamuna.

As four hours had passed for Helena to be carried to mainland, they took her to a “pharmacy doctor” at the Fulchhari terminal.

There, Helena and her unborn baby were both declared dead.

Suja, distraught after the loss of his wife and child, still had to manage a horse cart from the

local bazar to carry her body back to the char for burial.

“With no roads or vehicles to commute from the mainland to the char, I had to arrange the horse cart. When that was not available earlier to carry her to a hospital, I had to manage the Jalchouki,” he said.

On their way back to the char, Helena’s sisters-in-law Taslima Khatun and Sonabhan Begum were seen wailing next to her idle body.

Sonabhan said, “Only if there was a hospital, clinic or even a doctor in the char, Helena and her child could live. Like many other women of our locality, she died because there are no facilities for emergency patients.”

Her sister Taslima added, “The women in char areas are unfortunate and have to go through normal deliveries as there is no scope for hospital treatment.”

Abdul Hannan Mandal, chairman of Fulchhari Union Parishad, told The Daily Star Kalurpara Char falls under the Fulchhari union.

“It is almost impossible to provide proper treatment to pregnant women in case of emergencies. The whole union parishad is located on the chars in the Jamuna.

“It is like a different planet here and we have

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Tigers’ chance to break new ground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the kind of year Bangladesh have already had, it is only logical to say that the Mominul Haque-led side will back themselves to break further ground by sealing a maiden Test win on South African soil when the two sides meet in the first of two-Test series at Kingsmead in Durban today.

The match is scheduled to begin at 2:00pm [BST].

With Bangladesh losing big in all of their six Tests played in South Africa and the two draws at home being their best achievement against the Proteas in all of the 12 outings in the format, records remain largely against the Tigers.

Despite the ragged history, Bangladesh go into the series hot on the wheels of a historic 2-1 ODI series victory against the

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TIPU MURDER

At least five took part in the killing mission: probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least five people took part in the killing of Jahidul Islam Tipu, former general secretary of Motijheel Awami League, in the capital’s Shahjahanpur a week ago.

Except for the “shooter”, Masum Mohammad Akash, two others were also carrying arms as backup team members who would step in if Aksah failed to shoot Tipu or any other problem appeared at the scene.

A senior police official, involved in the murder probe, confirmed this to The Daily Star yesterday.

Investigators said the three were carrying one 7.65mm pistol each. The arms were supplied from a single source and those were returned after the killing.

Akash collected the arms and bullets from near Kamalapur area. He fled after returning the arms, said a police official, requesting anonymity.

Law enforcers arrested Akash on Sunday.

Investigators said they were checking role of a former ward councillor from Sabujbagh in supplying the arms.

Sources said the murder could be solved following the arrest of one Sumon Shikder Musa, who hired Akash for the killing and now believed to have left the country.

“Those who gave the contract for the murder used a ‘cut-out’ strategy and that’s why it has become difficult to ascertain who first called whom and how many people were involved,” said an investigator.

According to police officials, 7.65mm pistol is an automatic gun and it can carry about 16 bullets in two chambers.

Once loaded, shots can be fired from the pistol one after another just with a single pull of the trigger. This feature of the firearm had enabled the shooter to open around 11 shots just within five to seven seconds.

A senior police official said these arms are made abroad and each of them costs up to Tk 5 lakh.

AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner

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A rickshaw, with a mother and her two children on board, on the wrong side of the capital’s Old Airport road yesterday. Such risks taken by pullers may end in tragic accidents. Just two days ago, a woman died while taking her daughters to school on a recklessly-driven rickshaw.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Today is the 51st Death Anniversary of
S N H Rizvi

We request all relatives, friends
and well-wishers to remember him in their
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul