

MTFE SCAM
Around five
lakh might be
victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around five lakh people might have been scammed by the cyber ponzi scheme Metaverse Foreign Exchange (MTFE), losing several thousand crores of taka, suspect the Criminal Investigation Department of police.

Most of the victims are from Dhaka, Barishal, Rajshahi, Cumilla, Naogaon, Kushtia, Brahmanbaria and Satkhira, said CID following primary investigation.

The aggrieved are advised to contact the CID Cyber Support Center to inform and report the fraudsters, said CID media wing additional police superintendent Azad Rahman.

They may contact through CID's Cyber Police Centre Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cpcidbdpolice/>), through email: cyber@police.gov.bd, contact at mobile number +8801320010148 and national emergency hotline 999.

CID's special police superintendent for Financial Crime unit, Basir Uddin, said that they have started a money laundering inquiry over the MTFE embezzlement.

"We came to know about this matter recently. We are gathering information from media and other sources," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

PRAYER
TIMING
AUGUST 26

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:30

12:45

4:45

6:33

8:00

JAMAAT 5:05

1:15

5:00

6:36

8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Illegal hill cutting in Jaychandi union of Moulvibazar has left the area desolate. A syndicate operating in the area raze the hill to sell the soil and stones illegally. As a consequence of their activities, the risk of landslides has mounted and disaster lurks in the distance. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Caught in the ‘easy
money’ scam

How ponzi schemes like MTFE operated freely in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI

The lure of earning easy money is often too much for a common person to resist. This is where Ponzi Schemes like Metaverse Foreign Exchange Group (MTFE) come in.

Like any fraudulent company, they promised high returns to potential investors and offered unusually high returns on their investments in a short span of time.

They then disappeared into thin air, leaving lakhs of investors

high and dry.

Evading law enforcers and relevant authorities, this fraudulent company also operated freely in Rajshahi just like other parts of the country, for four months, until the end of July, deceiving many unsuspecting individuals in the meantime.

The local representatives of the Dubai based organisation went underground after a case was filed against the company on July 23.

On the same day, the Cyber Tribunal of Rajshahi ordered

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP), Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to launch a joint investigation against these fraudsters.

However, several victims have alleged that the representatives of MTFE remained active all over Rajshahi till August 17, when the company app collapsed and any trace of the organisation suddenly disappeared from the web, along with hundreds and thousands of money invested by

individuals willing to find a ‘short cut’ to success.

They alleged that despite knowing about this group, police only became active when the case was reported by several prominent media outlets, which resulted in the arrest of two suspects on Thursday- Debedranath Saha, 43, of Rajshahi and Latiful Bari, 42, of Naogaon.

When asked about such accusations, RMP Commissioner Biplob Bijoy Talukder told The

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

HILL RAZING IN MOULVIBAZAR
Risk of landslide
mounts amid monsoon

MINTU DESHWARA

Risk of hill collapse and landslides amid monsoon mounts in Jaychandi union in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila as hill razing continues unabated in the area.

While the activity has numerous adverse impacts on the environment, there are still no visible measures from the authorities concerned to stop hill cutting and prevent any potential disaster.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw a local syndicate razing and levelling hillocks and mounds of around 20 feet in height next to a road in union's Panchpir Jalai area, disregarding environmental laws. They also sell the soil and stones illegally.

Seeking anonymity, some locals alleged that a local syndicate led by one Chan Mia of area Number 10 in the union is involved in the hill razing activities, while some government officials are on their payroll.

Local ward member Md Manu Mia said the syndicate members from the neighbouring area are cutting soil from the hillocks every day after midnight.

They then transport the soil and stones using trucks and sell those in different places with the help of some locals.

The syndicate is so strong that most of the locals do not dare to speak against them. They also threatened them in the past, said Goni Mia, a resident.

The risk of landslides has increased manifolds and may occur at any time due to rainfall in the ongoing monsoon, said Konor Mia, another local.

“Hill razing is continuing right under the nose of the local administration and authorities concerned.”

KONOR MIA

If landslides close roads, it will result in immense suffering for locals, he added.

Besides, the presence of a mosque next to the hillock raises the possibility of a worse disaster, he added.

Two months ago, government officials went to the Bijaya Bazar area and seized a vehicle with hill soil after being tipped

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Schoolboy among 4
dead in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four persons died and 10 others were injured in road accidents in two districts during the last two days, according to reports from our local correspondents.

In Pabna, a human hauler carrying passengers skidded off Pabna-Pakshey road in Mohadebpur area under Ishwardi upazila, killing a 10th-grader on the spot and leaving 10 others injured yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abir Hossain, 15, from Boktarpur village in the upazila, said Arbinda Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

The driver lost control over the steering as a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

AL, BNP hinder
democracy
Says Zaker Party chairman

DU CORRESPONDENT

The two main political parties are creating obstacles to establishing institutionalised democracy, alleged Zaker Party Chairman Khwaja Mostafa Amir Faisal Mujaddedi yesterday.

He made the remarks during the party's national council at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

Awami League and BNP are confrontational and malicious, he said.

"Democracy is not established through dictatorship. Democracy is founded on its own rules..." he further added.

A partial committee was formed during the council, with Mujaddedi elected as party chairman and Shameem Haider as secretary-general.

2 workers die
after falling
off PUST
building

One other injured
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Two construction workers died and another was critically injured after the trio fell from an under-construction building on Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) campus yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Tuhin Hossain, 25, of Chapainwabganj and Asadul Ali, 35, of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi.

The injured, Rabiul Awal, 30, of Chapainwabganj, is being treated at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition, police said.

Kripa Shindhu Bala, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said the three fell to the ground

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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FEES

- No tuition fees will be charged. However, a nominal amount of Taka 10,000 will be charged to cover incidental expenses.

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