

Bangladesh police crackdown on 'kings of genies'

孟加拉警方破獲「精靈王」詐騙集團



Police in northern Bangladesh say they have arrested dozens of swindlers who conned people out of money by calling them on mobile phones and pretending to be genies with supernatural powers.

"It has become an **epidemic** here," said Farhad bin Imrul Kayes, police chief of Gobindaganj district.

"In the last three months alone we have arrested 24 of these so-called 'kings of genies,' some of whom have even become rich in just a year," he told AFP.

The scammers would gather personal information about their victims beforehand, call them and speak "in a tone similar to Arabic," Kayes said.

Claiming to be genies who had descended from the sky, they would tell people to send money to a specific location, threatening a family tragedy if they disobeyed.

"Many of these cheats are **illiterate** but they are very smart," said sub-inspector Abdun Nur, who led several clandestine operations against the **fraudsters**.

"During the phone talks, they would describe themselves as kings of genies who recite Koranic verses, **put the fear of God into** their victims and pretend to know some of their family secrets," he said.

The police cracked down after receiving numerous complaints and used phone taps to identify Gobindaganj district as the source of all the calls.

(AFP)

孟加拉北部警方表示，他們已逮捕了多位詐騙份子，這些人佯裝成有超能力的精靈，打手機給被害民眾詐財。

高比達岡區分局警察局長法哈德·賓·伊姆魯·凱亞斯說：「這種詐騙手法在本區越來越常見。」

「光是最近這三個月來，我們就逮捕了二十四名自稱『精靈王』的詐騙份子，他們其中有些人靠著這種詐財方法在短短一年內致富。」

凱亞斯說：「詐騙集團會事先蒐集被害人的個人資料，然後『用阿拉伯口音』打電話給他們。」

他們自稱是從天而降的精靈，要求被害人將錢送到某特定地點，並恐嚇若不聽從指令的話，家裡將發生災禍。

曾數度帶領警方破獲詐騙集團秘密行動的副督察阿布登·努爾說：「這些騙子大多目不識丁，但是他們非常精明。」

他說：「他們自稱為精靈王，在電話中朗誦可蘭經經文，假裝握有被害人家庭秘密使其感到懼怕。」

警方接到許多被害人的報案，他們利用電話竊聽裝置確認所有的發話源頭都來自高比達岡區後，便破獲此詐騙集團。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

Above left: People wait in line to get water at a Buddhist monastery in Dhaka, on April 28, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Above right: A Bangladeshi street beggar begs by writing his life history on a street in Dhaka on May 20, 2009.

PHOTO: AP

上左圖：四月二十八日，民眾在孟加拉達卡的一間佛寺排隊等著取水。

照片：路透社

上右圖：五月二十日，孟加拉達卡的一名乞丐將他的人生遭遇寫在街上乞。

照片：美聯社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. epidemic /ˌɛprɪˈdemɪk/ n.

流行 (liu2 xing2)

例：Health officials are playing down reports of a flu epidemic.
(衛生當局刻意淡化處理那則流感的報導。)

2. illiterate /ɪˈlɪtərɪt/ adj.

文盲的 (wen2 mang2 de5)

例：The government has announced a scheme to help illiterate people find jobs.
(政府宣佈了一項協助文盲找工作的計畫。)

3. fraudster /ˈfrɒdstə/ n.

騙子 (pian4 zi5)

例：Leonard lost his savings to Internet fraudsters.
(李奧納的積蓄被網路詐騙份子騙走了。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

put the fear of God into someone 使某人感到害怕

Something that **puts the fear of God** into you, terrifies you. In the article, the victims were terrified by the fraudsters' threats.

Examples: "Last night's earthquake **put the fear of God** into me," or "The thought of global warming **puts the fear of God** into me."

某件「put the fear of God into you」的事，指的就是會讓你感到害怕的事。文章中說，受害者受到詐騙份子的恐嚇而害怕。

例如：「昨晚的地震讓我很害怕」，或是「我一想到全球暖化就覺得很恐怖」。