



YABA, CHARITY hand in glove?

Bodi spends over Tk 1.5cr a month among the poor in Teknaf to keep his empire 'peaceful'

"All credit goes to my people for whom I am here today. So I donate 70 percent of my business income to the people of my locality." THE FORMER MP SAID WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE RICE DISTRIBUTION.

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Cox's Bazar

The other side of Abdur Rahman Bodi, widely known as a yaba godfather, is quite intriguing.

The former Awami League lawmaker has been spending roughly Tk 19 crore per annum for the last three years on distributing rice among 56,000 poor people in Teknaf every month.

He also donates sugar, milk, oil, onion, lentils and chickpeas for the needy in the month of Ramadan. Many families have got financial support from him, said locals.

Two years before he started his "philanthropic" activities, his annual income was around Tk 15.46 crore as shown in his 2014 polls affidavit.

So where does the extra crores for his charity work come from? How does he maintain the annual balance sheet? Has his income just swelled over the years or he got the magic lamp?

RISE OF A 'PHILANTHROPIST'
In 2016, two years after Bodi was elected MP from Cox's Bazar-4 for the second time, he made a list of needy people with the help of representatives of Teknaf municipality and union parishads, according to local political

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Awaiting free rice distribution by Abdur Rahman Bodi, widely known as a patron of yaba trade, hundreds of women and children gather in Chowdhury Para area of Teknaf. Inset, the cards that the poor in Teknaf use for collecting rice donated by the former lawmaker. The photos were taken in November and December.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



PM for master plan to protect cultivable land

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry to work out a master plan for every upazila for protecting cultivable land and checking the unplanned construction of buildings, roads and houses on croplands.

"We need to design a master plan for every upazila setting aside places for fields, schools and colleges, small industrial estates and cultivable land. If we can do it properly, people will accept it. I think we

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Lead, pesticides in milk

Finds govt survey; 96pc raw milk, 66-80pc packed milk do not fulfill standard safety criteria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government-commissioned study has found in raw cow milk excessive levels of lead, regular consumption of which is harmful to human health.

Conducted by the National Food Safety Laboratory of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the study also detected high levels of chromium in cow feeds.

Besides, it found excessive presence of pesticide, antibiotic and bacteria in raw cow milk.

"Heavy metals found in milk basically came from cattle feeds, while pesticide is present because of its excessive use in grass and other agricultural feeds," Prof Shahnila Ferdousi, head of the National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL), told The Daily Star.

"This happens mostly due to the lack of awareness among farmers and feed manufacturers,"

- Cattle feed main source of harmful substances in milk
- 69pc cow feed samples contain higher level of chromium
- Sources of pesticide is its excessive use in grass, feeds

she said.

The study was conducted after collecting 96 samples of cow raw milk, 30 of cow feed, 33 of curd and 31 of packed milk -- randomly from 18 places in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj between August and December last year.

It was aimed at providing baseline data about the contaminants in milk and milk products and cow

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EMBEZZLEMENT OF Tk 1,746CR ACC files five cases against Crescent boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed five cases against 22 individuals, including Crescent Group Chairman MA Kader, for allegedly misappropriating about Tk 1,746 crore from the Janata Bank.

On January 30, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate arrested Kader in connection with three separate cases filed with Chawkbazar Police Station in the capital over laundering Tk 919 crore.

Yesterday's cases were filed with the same police station. Of the 22 accused, 15 are Janata Bank officials, including its former general managers Fakhrul Alam and Jakir Hossain.

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Ex-principal of Eden college found dead at city home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former principal of Eden Mohila College was found dead at her house in the capital's Elephant Road yesterday.

Mahfuza Chowdhury Parvin, aged around 65, may have been strangled between 3:30pm to 6:00pm, police said.

The social science professor was the principal of the college from February 2009 to April 2012.

Her husband Ismat Quadir Gama, vice chairman

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Pedestrians squeeze their way past hawkers who have illegally set up a market of sorts on a footbridge at Jirani Bazar on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway. Inset, radiant coloured tarpaulins hugging the ends of the footbridge are a sign of hawkers illegally occupying the area. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Boys' dropout highest in seven years

Says govt draft report on secondary education, rate rose to 36.1pc last year from 34.9pc in 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dropout rate of boys at the secondary level increased to 36 percent last year, the highest since 2011, according to a draft report prepared by the government.

In 2011, around 47 percent boys dropped out before completing the secondary level but the rate fell to 34.9 in 2012.

It hovered between 33 to 34 percent till 2017, before rising to 36.01 percent last year, showed the draft report styled "Bangladesh Education Statistics-2018", which was prepared by the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis).

It later organised a dissemination

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Mr. Mahmudul Islam Parvez, Director, Uni-Global Business Ltd, receiving a crest on 07.02.2019 from the chief guest, the Honorable Deputy Minister Begum Habibun Nahar MP, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as a highest number of ships handler shipping agent at Mongla port for the year 2017-2018 very successfully. Alhaj Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Mayor Khulna City Corporation, Khulna, A K M Faruk Hasan, BN, Chairman of MPA, Indian Asst. High Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Raina attended this ceremony as special guests. High civil and defense officials were also present in the ceremony.