

Crazy pills flying in

Smugglers explore air route to bring yaba into capital, Dhaka airport saw 63,898 tablets seized in 4 months

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Yaba smugglers are now using air routes to carry the crazy pills to the capital from Teknaf, the gateway for the drugs to Bangladesh.

The new route comes amid tougher vigilance on yaba smuggling, especially on highways, by law enforcers since the anti-narcotics drive began on May 4 last year.

The new route is being used by different yaba smuggling syndicates, who pay drug mules to bring the contraband items to the capital by hiding those in their rectums and abdomens, according to the Airport Armed Police Battalion (AAPBn).

The matter came to the AAPBn's attention after the arrests of 32 such people along with a total of 63,898 pills at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in the past four months.

Among the arrestees, six were yaba traders and the others were carriers. The arrested traders were carrying the drugs themselves at the time.

At least 26 cases have been filed in this connection, said Alamgir Hossain, additional superintendent of police of AAPBn.

On July 30 last year, the AAPBn apprehended the first such carrier at the airport -- Rima Ghos -- while she was carrying 3,843 pieces yaba concealed

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The fiery kiss of the Palash flower, which is adorned by two brilliantly coloured birds perched on its top, ushers in the month of Falgun and its companion season Spring. The photo was taken in Chattogram city's Court Hill area early this month.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Singing along to the song of SPRING

RANJAN BANERJEE

Sometime last week, post-lunch when the rush of vehicles jostling each other to pick up kids from schools had well been over on the streets of Dhanmondi, I was on a rickshaw just like any other lazy winter day. I was headed for my office in Farmgate. Angry car drivers and bikers were screaming at each other at an intersection. I was convinced life was going on as usual.

At this point my rickshaw was running along the Abahani Playground and as soon as it turned right, towards Dhanmondi 32 Bridge, a surreal thing happened.

On the right was a majestic house while on the left was the residence of the chief engineer of the public works department. Drowning out the shouts

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Three killed as BGB opens fire

Shooting followed row with locals as border guards seized 'smuggled' cattle in a Thakurgaon village



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Three people were killed and at least 16 others suffered bullet wounds yesterday as members of a BGB patrol team opened fire following a scuffle with locals in Thakurgaon's Baharampur village.

Md Moniruzzaman, superintendent of police in Thakurgaon, said that acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of Border Guard Bangladesh went to the village in Haripur upazila by a locally made three-wheeler in the morning to seize smuggled cattle.

At one stage, the BGB personnel got into an altercation with villagers, who encircled them. The BGB men failed to calm the villagers, and opened fire, the SP told this newspaper over the phone.

Speaking at a press conference last night, Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, commanding officer of the 50 BGB Battalion, said BGB personnel

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2 Manikganj cops held

Placed on remand in rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two police officials in Manikganj were arrested and placed on a six-day remand yesterday in a case filed over the rape of a woman.

Police arrested Sub-inspector Sekendar Hossain and Assistant Sub-inspector Mazharul Islam of Satoria Police Station around 1:45am yesterday, hours after a committee, formed to investigate the incident, said it primarily found proof of the allegation.

The 22-year-old woman lodged the case with the police station against the two on Monday evening.

Judge Md Golam Sarwar of Judicial Magistrate Court-7 placed the two on a six-day remand after Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Satoria Police Station and also investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court.

The IO sought a 10-day remand for each of them, said plaintiff's lawyer Nazrul Islam Badsha.

Lutfur Rahman, resident medical officer at Manikganj 250-bed Hospital, yesterday said the woman's medical test had been done, and they would submit the report to the IO within three days.

After the rape allegation, Rifat Rahman Shamim, superintendent of Manikganj police, on Sunday formed the

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Lights go out on a happy day

Ctg crash kills couple on way to meet son back from abroad; 5 others die in accidents in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

It was supposed to be a happy family reunion.

Abdur Rahim, 65, and his wife Kulsum Begum, 55, were on their way to Chattogram city from their village in Cumilla. They were about to meet their son Abdul Momin Swapan, who had landed at the port city from Dubai the previous night.

All of a sudden, their microbus rear-ended a lorry at a speed bump and got stuck to the lorry's bumper. The lorry dragged the vehicle about 100 metres and by that time the microbus caught fire, said one of the survivors.

The couple and the microbus driver, Mohammad Rubel, of Noakhali's Chatkhil,

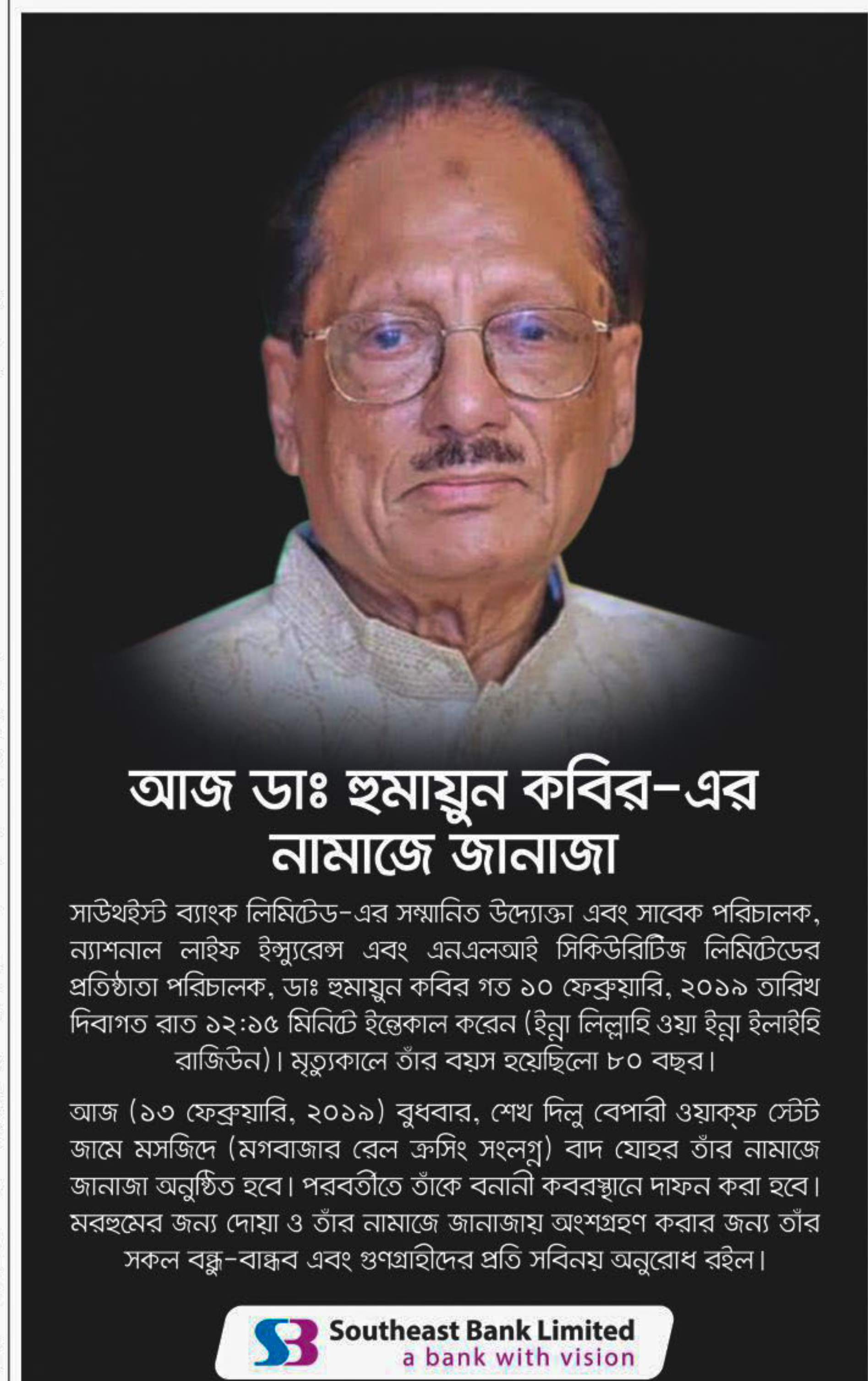
"Actually, discipline has not been ensured on roads. I've admitted this."

were killed on the spot.

The accident on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila around 7:30am also left the couple's grandchildren -- Roni, 12, and Russel, 10 -- critically injured. They were being treated at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Swapan's brother Abul Kalam, who

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JAHA ALAM, SALEK 2 DIFFERENT MEN ACC 'knew it months ago'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission had informed the Anti-Corruption Commission nearly six months ago that Abu Saleq, accused of embezzling Tk 18.5 crore from Sonali Bank, and jute mill worker Jaha Alam were different persons. But the ACC seemingly delayed taking measures on freeing the latter.

In a letter to the ACC on August 14 last year, the EC mentioned the NID information of both Saleq and Jaha Alam and three other people.

The EC also made it clear that "no person with that name [Abu Saleq] had worked or works at the commission".

Even after that, ACC Commissioner AFM Aminul Islam on February 6 told reporters that Saleq used to be an employee at the EC's NID project and that was why it was easy for him to make Jaha Alam a scapegoat.

As the matter came to light that businessman Saleq was the real accused, Jaha Alam was released from jail on February 4. But he had already spent about three years behind bars in 34 cases filed over the embezzlement of Sonali Bank's money.

On the day of his release, the ACC formed a committee to investigate why the jute mill worker was wrongly imprisoned.

Talking to The Daily Star, EC Director General (NID Registration Wing) Saidur Rahman said they had verified the information of the two and informed the ACC about it long ago.

"It's not understandable why they have been claiming that Abu Saleq used to work at the Election Commission. We'll write a letter to the ACC protesting the matter," he said.

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আজ ডাঃ হুমায়ুন কবির-এর নামাজে জানাজা

সাইথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর সম্মানিত উদ্যোক্তা এবং সাবেক পরিচালক, ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এবং এনএলআই সিকিউরিটিজ লিমিটেডের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা পরিচালক, ডাঃ হুমায়ুন কবির গত ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০১৯ তারিখ দিবাগত রাত ১২:১৫ মিনিটে ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাহিহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিলো ৮০ বছর।

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