

# The rise of the rogues

Records of 32 yaba godfathers and dealers show how they made fortune smuggling in the crazy pills; 4 of them are Bodi brothers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and  
MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

From political leaders to businessmen, fish traders to poultry farm owners and brickfield workers to tailors -- the professions of 102 yaba godfathers and dealers who surrendered to police on February 16 are as varied as their age.

But all of them have one thing in common: their wealth saw an astronomical rise after they got involved in the smuggling of the crazy drug. All of them have cases filed against them but most of them never got arrested before.

The Daily Star analysed records of 32 godfathers and dealers who are now in the Cox's Bazar District Jail. Of them, four are brothers of former lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi.

The four were named as patrons of yaba traders in four separate intelligence reports of the home ministry and one report of Cox's Bazar Special Branch of police.



Abdus Shukur, 33, who is third among ten siblings of Bodi, alone controlled majority of the yaba smuggling in Teknaf, the gateway of the pink pills from Myanmar.

Shukur, a step brother of the former MP, was a Burma teak importer in Teknaf and also involved in brickfield business.

Wanted in an acid attack case filed with Teknaf Police Station on August 31, 2005, he was never arrested by law enforcers until the February 16 surrender to police.

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Little Sanin is yet to understand that her mother will never come home. "Ammu is in hospital," she says whenever there is any conversation about Halima Begum Shila, one of those killed in the February 20 Chawkbazar fire. The five-year-old came to a human chain of victim families in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with her father Mohammad Alamgir. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Bus race costs another life

College student killed in capital's Demra; 2 teenagers die in bike accident on Khilgaon flyover; road crashes kill 7 more in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

Yet another ugly race between two buses took away the life of a college student at Mostafa Majir intersection of Rampura-Demra Road in the capital yesterday, sparking protests in the area.

Iram Bepari, 19, a first-year student of Golam Mostafa Model College in Demra, was hit by one of the speeding buses around 11:00am, killing him on the spot. He was on a bicycle.

The accident took place barely three weeks into university student Abrar Ahmed's killing in a road crash that triggered massive protests over unsafe roads and poor traffic management.

Iram's death coincided with separate road accidents that left at least nine people killed and 16 injured across the country yesterday.

The college student used to live with his parents at Amulia Purbapara in Demra. He had come to play cricket on a field near the Mostafa Majir intersection, said his cousin Masudur Rahman Masud.

In the middle of the game, Iram took a friend's bicycle and headed for the bazaar on the intersection to have some water.



Iram Bepari

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ABRAR'S DEATH  
Bus owner arrested, placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owner of Suprohat Paribahan bus that ran over and killed university student Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury on March 19 was placed on a three-day remand yesterday, hours after his arrest from the capital's Mugda.

The owner is Nani Gopal Sarker, 42, who owns four out of 163 buses of the company.

Passengers and pedestrians caught bus driver Sirajul Islam and handed him over to police in the capital's Shahjadpur after the vehicle had hit and injured a college girl on the morning of March 19, said police.

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FOUR PHASES OF UZ POLLS  
AL rebels put up good show

Their win in 111 chairman posts raises question over nomination decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 111 Awami League rebels have become upazila chairmen, winning in one fourth of the constituencies in the four phases of the staggered upazila polls.

The one-sided election shunned by most opposition political parties paved the way for many AL rebels' win, election observers said.

"There could have been some problems within the Awami League about picking nominees. Also, many of those denied the party ticket might have thought this was a chance to prove their popularity," Sushashoner Jonno Nogorik President Hafiz Uddin Khan told The Daily Star.

The phenomenon indicates that many deserving AL leaders were not picked by the party, analysts said.

Observers also pointed out that supporters of some of the parties that boycotted the local government election might have voted for the AL rebels and independents.

The role of many AL lawmakers had also been a key factor.

"In many cases, we have seen Awami League lawmakers covertly supporting the rebels. This could be a reason

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'GUNFIGHT' WITH RAB  
Two 'robbers' killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged robbers were killed in a "gunfight" with Rab members in the capital's Tejgaon area early yesterday.

The dead -- Jamal, 38, and Nayeem, 35, -- were members of a local robber gang, claimed Mohiuddin Faruque, company commander of Rab-2.

Each of them was accused in at least 10 cases filed with different police stations across the country, the Rab official added.

The Rab team set up a check-point in Tejgaon on information that the alleged robbers would make off with a stolen lorry through that area.

When the Rab members signalled the vehicle to stop around 4:00am, the "robbers" opened fire on

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FIRE INCIDENTS  
PM takes a dig at onlookers  
Calls for changing attitude

UNB, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said those who construct buildings and use them should ensure that there are no incidents of fire.

The fire service's responsibility is to douse flames whenever a fire breaks out, she said.

Addressing a meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee at the Gono Bhaban yesterday, she mentioned about the beating up of firefighters and damaging of fire engines by some people during the FR Tower blaze in the city's Banani on March 28.

She criticised some people for gathering in front of the building and taking selfies.

"I don't understand what is the point of taking selfies at a fire scene. Instead, they could have thrown water on the fire. They could have helped the rescue operation."

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Firefighters inspecting the accident spot in Manikganj's Shibaloy where a head-on collision between a bus and a truck left at least two killed and 14 others injured yesterday. Left, the shell-shocked mother of Iram, a student whose life was cut short by a race between two buses in the capital.



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