



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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'Indian Yaba' getting in

In the wake of anti-narco crackdown, gangs use new border points for smuggling in cheaper pills

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Chapainawabganj

He is known as a rakkhal (cowboy) as he brings in cattle smuggled from across the border. But what the 36-year-old says about his additional source of earning is no less startling. The inhabitant of Shibganj upazila in bordering Chapainawabganj district is a carrier of mad drug.

He is among a dozen people from his small village of Bishrosia, adjacent to Fatehpur border point, who are involved in yaba smuggling from India.

The south-western district is one of the new routes yaba syndicates explored

following anti-drug crackdowns that seemingly put a dent in trafficking through the old entrances.

The price of the crazy tablets these so-called cowboys of Fatehpur are bringing in is cheaper than that in Teknaf, the southernmost point in the mainland and main gateway for smuggling yaba from Myanmar.

"Two types of pills are available here. The small grey pill is sold at Tk 40 to 45 each and the big pink pill at Tk 80 to 85," said the cowboy, who also works in his agricultural land.

As of December 3, a small pink pill was



People stand in silence for the namaz-e-janaza of Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and watch his son Shameran Abed speak on a giant screen at the capital's Army Stadium yesterday. *Inset, family members of Sir Fazle Abed near his coffin there.*

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



City polls on Jan 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The elections to Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka North City Corporation will be held on January 30, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

During a press briefing at the Election Commission (EC) office, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda said electronic voting machines (EVMs) will be used in the polls instead of traditional ballot boxes.

Army will not be deployed in the polls, he added.

Four other election commissioners -- Mahbub Talukdar, Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam and Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury -- were also present at the

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Moncho, BCL men attack Nur

Storm Ducsu VP's office; 26 others injured, one in ICU

STAR REPORT

Activists of a faction of Muktijuddho Moncho, mostly comprised of Chhatra League men, again beat up and injured Ducsu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur, storming into his office at the Ducsu building yesterday.

At least 27 of his supporters were injured in the attack carried out around 12:45pm after Ducsu Assistant General Secretary and BCL leader Saddam Hussain threatened Nur with dire consequences if he didn't leave his office.

Dhaka University Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani went to the spot around 1:00pm and sent 20 of the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Of them, 14 were released after primary treatment, and six others, including Nur, were admitted to the hospital.

One of the six, Tuhin Farabi, a student of a private university in the capital, was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit from the emergency unit after he had breathing problems and convulsions.

"We have kept him under observation. We cannot say

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TRIBUTE TO SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED

He dreamt big and made them come true

MAHFUZ ANAM

Abed Bhai, as Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was lovingly called by almost all those who knew him, was well into his fatal illness when Cyclone Bulbul struck Bangladesh. As shared by Lady Abed and daughter Tamara during a recent conversation, as the cyclone wrought havoc, Abed, in a semiconscious state, was constantly rambling about what preparations have been made to rescue the victims and how quickly Brac will have to come to the aid of the children and rebuild the affected schools. Such was his attachment with the poor and the deprived.

During my last few minutes with him while he could still converse, albeit lying down and mostly with his eyes closed, he talked about press freedom, its need for democracy and for the future of Bangladesh, about how The Daily Star was doing, about never losing hope, never giving up and most importantly about his faith in the bright future of our people,

the last being his article of faith. He reminisced about the paper's early days and felt happy as the paper evolved with its commitment to pro-people journalism.

As I took slow and measured steps backwards away from him and out of the room, stealing last moment glances and lingering for as many more seconds as possible, I was overwhelmed by the sudden realisation that I would never again see him in his elegantly attired self, hear his calming, reassuring, encouraging and inspiring voice again, feel that gentle and affectionate touch that I rushed to receive in moments of my deepest frustrations, get his wise counsel on why it was vital to serve the poor, why it was crucial to reduce poverty, why education was the key to our future and how not to lose focus on accomplishing the tasks in hand. As I walked away, I was acutely aware that I was leaving behind a legend, the man who was a fountain of inspiration for all those who loved Bangladesh and

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Adieu, friend of the poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people braved the morning chill yesterday as they thronged the Army Stadium to pay tribute to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, who passed away in a hospital in the capital on Friday night.

From ministers, lawmakers, politicians, to diplomats of different countries, and civil society members to relatives, all came to attend the first namaz-e-janaza at the stadium. They walked in silence towards the coffin inside the Army Stadium and placed floral wreaths on it.

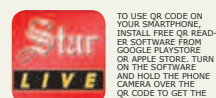
People poured into the venue well before the body of Sir Fazle Abed arrived there around 10:30am. After they paid their last tribute, the namaz-e-janaza began around 12:45pm.

Sir Fazle Abed, known in the country as the friend of the poor or the champion of the deprived, was then laid to rest in Banani graveyard after a second namaz-e-janaza held on

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Modi defends CAA, NRC at mega rally

Assures Muslims of no detention centres as protests swell across India

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday sought to reassure India's Muslims as a wave of deadly protests against a new citizenship law put his Hindu nationalist government under pressure like never before.

At least 25 people, a majority of them in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, have died and hundreds injured in 10 days of demonstrations and violence after Modi's government passed the law criticised as anti-Muslim. More protests took place yesterday.

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আমরা অবিচল

“ No one is finally dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away.”

- Terry Pratchett

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG (1936-2019) positively impacted the lives of millions of people across the world.

Humanity will remember him forever.