

Caught in his own trap
Man held for trying to implicate brother-in-law in drug case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Tuesday night arrested a man who tried to implicate his brother-in-law in a drug case by putting yaba pills in the latter's motorcycle in Dhaka's Uttara area.

The arrestee was identified as Md Rony (35), hailing from Gazipur, Officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station Mohammad Mohsin told The Daily Star.

The OC said Rony called police around 10:30pm on Tuesday. He identified himself as an informant and said a drug peddler, Abdul Kader, kept yaba under the seat of his motorcycle.

Police then carried out a raid and recovered 90 pieces of yaba under the seat of the bike. But Kader claimed himself innocent and said he knew nothing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Systematic violation of human rights
Say UN special rapporteurs on CHT in letter to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several UN special rapporteurs have written to the government about the death of an indigenous activist allegedly in the hands of security forces, revealed a document released by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights yesterday.

The letter was sent by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on August 10 this year.

The letter sought information on the alleged torture and custodial death of Nabayan Chakma Milon, a 47-year-old indigenous political activist, in Dighinal of Khagrachhari on March 15 this year.

The letter said that Milon was detained during a raid at Monibhodro Karbari Para, Baganpara area, Ward 1 of Dighinala on March 15, at 2:30 in the morning.

"Milon's hands and legs were tied and he was thrown to the ground.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

The curious case of 'missing' youths
Family still in search, police find militant links

STAR REPORT

Family members of at least 11 missing youths did not file any general diary as most of them left home showing different reasons.

Rab, however, claimed that they are currently being trained on explosives in militant hideouts in remote areas of the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

This newspaper contacted the families of 23, out of 38 such missing youths. The list has been disclosed to the media by Rab on Monday.

Five of the missing youths left home following feuds with family, while six others showed reasons such as joining the Tabligh Jamaat, searching for a better job, availing higher studies in India and working abroad.

Two of the families even consulted "tantriks" (fortune tellers), instead of reporting the incident to the police.

According to the families, 13 out of 23 of these missing persons were students. Of them, seven were students of madrasas and six were from general and technical backgrounds.

Two of them were madrasa teachers.

According to Rab's information, 55 men

on the list that they published have been radicalised and recruited into the newly-surfaced militant outfit "Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya".

However, Rab claimed that most families of the missing persons are unaware of their radicalisation.

Ahad Ullah Majumder (22) from Cumilla's Barura, left home in May 2020 while doing his bachelor's.

"We did not inform the police. We believe he is currently in the Maldives," Ahad's father Mostafa Kamal Majumder told this newspaper.

However, The Daily Star could not verify this claim.

Ahad used to call his mother every month. He never sent any money but said he is saving money to go to Europe.

"He did not even buy a cellphone for saving money," said Ahad's father.

Rab said family members of some of the missing youths believe that they were staying abroad. Some even sent money to their parents from hideouts through mobile financial services.

Poly Begum, mother of another missing youth Abu Hurayra (22) from Magura, said her son, who was a madrasa student in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Looking after THE NEGLECTED
Momotamoy Korail providing palliative care to people with debilitating disease

NILIMA JAHAN

Sixty-year-old Asiya Begum, a resident of the capital's Korail slum, lives in a tiny makeshift room made of tin, slightly larger than the size of a grave, with no ventilation or fan. At first glance, it might look like she has been buried alive.

Asiya had a stroke in 2018 due to her uncontrolled hypertension and has been bedridden ever since.

Initially, she lived with her family in a shanty. However, as time progressed, she lost control of her bodily functions. Her family eventually stopped living with her, unable to bear the odour. It became a



daunting task for her husband, two sons and daughters-in-law, to clean after her.

So, they made a makeshift room for her, where poor, emaciated Asiya now awaits death.

A group of palliative-care assistants (PCA), however, has been trying to improve her quality of life since 2019.

They visit Asiya twice a week – check her blood pressure, help her do required exercises, tidy up her bedding on the floor, brush her rough hair, trim her nails, feed her and simply pass some time with her, which is what patients like her mostly crave for.

The PCAs work for the community

palliative-care centre named "Compassionate Korail", popularly known as "Momotamoy Korail", run by the Palliative Care Society of Bangladesh (PCSB) since 2019.

Currently, Momotamoy Korail has been providing home-based palliative care and required medicines to 304 patients, including 23 children, with debilitating diseases in Korail slum. Eight PCAs, three nurses, and one doctor try their best to make life better for them.

Like Asiya, most elderly patients in Korail have been suffering from uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension, kidney diseases, cancer, schizophrenia, arthritis, Parkinson's disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and many other chronic illnesses, while the children mostly suffer from cerebral palsy, congenital heart defects, cancer, and Down syndrome.

Selina Akhter, president of Community Based Organisation (CBO), Korail slum, said such community palliative-care centres must be established in every slum of the country, so that elderly people who cannot be cured of their illnesses can be cared for, because in most cases, family

members cannot afford their treatment or look after them properly.

"We have even seen a case where family members would give food to a cancer patient from the door with the help of a stick, due to bad odour coming from his infections. But the PCAs served him with the required medicines and assistance," she said.

The PCAs constitute the heart of this centre. They are all residents of Korail who have at least passed their SSC. After six months of training at BSMMU, they started their inspiring journey of serving terminally-ill patients.

For example, when Shilpi Akhter Sohagi's mother was hospitalised for 19 days at BSMMU with lung cancer, she observed the suffering of dying patients, which encouraged her to do something to alleviate their pain. That was when she made up her mind to take the training in 2015.

"Later in 2017, when my father was also diagnosed with the same disease, I had the opportunity to serve him during his last stage," she said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Man dies, wife and son hurt as car hits them

STAR REPORT

A man died while his wife and child sustained injuries after a car hit them in Kuril Bishwa Road area in the capital early yesterday.

The deceased -- Rashedul Islam Babu (27) -- was a rickshaw-puller from Mymensingh.

The Uttara bound car hit the family when they were going to catch a bus to go to Mymensingh.

Hafizur Rahman Riyel, additional deputy commissioner of Uttara Traffic Division, who was going through the area to go to Uttara on a police vehicle, took them to Kurmitola General Hospital, said witnesses.

The injured were later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Babu died, police said.

His wife Sumi Akter (23) and their two-year-old son Ahmed Islam Shuvo are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Manjurul Habib, a sub-inspector of Khilkhet Police Station, said the victims were walking on the road when the car hit them. Police are trying to identify the vehicle, he added.

In Narayanganj, two people, including a college student, were killed and four others were injured when a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Araihaaz upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Nafiz (17), a tenth-grader at Government Safar Ali College and Dulal Mia (50).

The four injured occupants of the auto-rickshaw were taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The right data is crucial for climate resilience
Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reliable and accurate data is instrumental for climate resilience, as it helps the government take the best decisions, speakers told a regional conference yesterday.

They stressed the need for an intense collaboration among countries in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, nations that are bearing the brunt of climate change.

They were speaking at the two-day Hindu Kush-Himalaya Climate Regional Conference, held at a hotel in the capital and organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

“Reliable, transparent, easily accessible and accurate data generation would be of immense importance for Bangladesh's fight against climate change. Efforts to intensify collaboration among countries and agencies would play a great role for this.”

SANJAY KUMAR BHOWMIK
Additional secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The title of the event is "Climate Data: Opportunities for Resilient Development".

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Agricultural Extension, and Bangladesh Planning Commission helped organise the conference.

Inaugurating the event on the conference's first day, Deputy Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Begum Habibun Nahar said Bangladesh has been preparing itself for a long time to combat the impacts of climate change. It has done so by finalising the National Adaptation Plan, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100, and Nationally Determined

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Newly-appointed Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun being adorned with rank badge in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Senior Secretary for Public Security Division Akter Hossain were present on the occasion. PHOTO: PHG

Will evict all encroachers to free up canals
Says Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they will evict all the encroachers regardless of their identities, to free up the city canals.

The mayor made the comment while inaugurating the demarcation pillars of Old Buriganga channel at Kalunagar.

"It doesn't matter who the structures belong to. We will start demolition work of a 10-story building constructed illegally..." he said.

He said they along with other government agencies like the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Bangladesh Water Development Board and district administration are working together to demarcate the channel permanently, based on CS and other maps.