

LANDSLIDE RISK

Move people living in foot hills: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin yesterday directed the authorities concerned to move people living at the foot of hills in Chattogram.

The minister issued the directive while speaking at the 20th meeting of the Hill Management Committee at the Circuit House in the port city.

"We have visited some spots and saw many people living illegally on the hills of Chattogram city. We cannot allow anyone to live there due to the risk of landslides. Nobody can live precariously in this way, even if it's their private hill," the minister said.

"The government has taken the decision in principle to evict anyone living in hills or hillocks," he stated.

Divisional Commissioner of Chattogram ABM Azhar said to accelerate the eviction process, utility lines may have to be cut. A decision to inform people about the enormous risks of landslides was made in the meeting.

Referring to the recent fine of Tk 10.38 crore slapped on the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) by the Department of Environment (DoE), the minister said the fine was imposed after CDA violated conditions stipulated by the DoE.

Muazzom Hossen, director of DoE (Chattogram region), alleged that big conglomerates were found involved in hill cutting. These organisations collaborate with corrupt high-ups to ensure they cannot be stopped, he added.

DoE Chattogram filed a total of 169 cases against hill cutting in greater Chattogram from 2011 to 2020, with most of them being filed against ruling party men, big companies, and local influentials.

Representatives from DoE Chattogram regional office, DoE Chattogram Metropolitan, Wasa, CDA, Chattogram City Corporation, and Power Development Board were present among others at the meeting.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

RAJIB RAIHAN



A young man takes a quick selfie with this enormous tripletail, locally known as "koikoral", weighing 220kg and caught from Cox's Bazar. The fisherman is planning on selling the fish for Tk 1,200 per kg at port city's Kazir Deuri Bazar today. This photo was taken on Wednesday from the bazaar.

Army chief leaves for Nepal today

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff Gen Aziz Ahmed leaves Dhaka for Nepal today on a five-day official visit.

During the visit, the army chief is scheduled to meet the Nepalese president, prime minister, assistant prime minister, defense minister and army chief, said an ISPR release yesterday.

During the meetings, the army chief will discuss various issues on strengthening existing friendly relations and mutual support between armies of the two countries.

He will return home on February 11.

Probe alleged

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Directorate General of Health Services, they said.

Yesterday, in his point of order, the JP lawmaker also demanded action against money laundering.

He said stone was being imported in guise of other items and asked the finance minister to look into the matter.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents.

It was a particularly tragic day in Dinajpur, as four people were killed and four injured in four separate accidents, three of them involving speeding trucks, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The deceased are Lutfa Begum (55), Masud Rana (33), Omar Ali (62), and an unidentified woman.

In Sadar upazila, Lutfa died on her way to Chirirbandar after a speeding truck hit the easy-bike carrying her yesterday noon. The collision took place at Gabura village and left her dead on the spot, police said, quoting locals.

In the same upazila, three-wheeler driver Masud Rana was killed after being hit by a speeding truck at Kaugan village on Wednesday night. The collision killed him on the spot, while injuring four of the vehicle's passengers. The injured were taken to local M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital.

At Hakimpur upazila, an unidentified woman succumbed to her injuries at Hakimpur Upazila Health Complex on Wednesday night, hours after a speeding truck hit her in front of a warehouse of Food Department at noon.

In Taraganj upazila, a pedestrian was killed after a speeding bus hit him. Deceased Omar Ali is from Ikarchali village under the upazila.

Quoting locals, upazila police said Omar was taking a walk on the edge of Dinajpur-Rangpur highway yesterday morning. Suddenly, a passenger bus hit him and left him critically injured. He succumbed to his injuries on his way to a hospital in Taraganj.

In Sylhet, one died and two were injured in an accident at Telibazar area under Dakshin Surma

upazila yesterday, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Shafia Khatun (45). Her brother-in-law Nur Hossain Khan and auto-rickshaw driver Shahin Ahmed were injured in the accident.

Khairul Fazal, officer-in-charge of Dakshin Surma Police Station said, "A Sylhet-bound bus from Habiganj hit an auto-rickshaw head-on around 8:30am." Shafia, who was on the auto-rickshaw, died on the spot, he added.

Her body was sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College for autopsy. The injured were under treatment at the same hospital.

Following the incident, the driver and helper fled the scene, prompting locals to block the road for an hour until police came in and pacified them. Meanwhile in Jhenidah, a secondary school teacher was killed in a road crash at Bhatoi bazaar under Shailakupa upazila yesterday, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Md Saikat Hossain (45). He was a teacher of Nityanandapur Secondary School.

Officer-in-Charge of Shailakupa Police Station Bazlur Rahman said Saikat was killed after being hit by a human-hauler. Critically injured, he was rushed to a local hospital, where on-duty doctors later pronounced him dead.

In another accident in Gaibandha, Abdul Jobber (60) was killed under a passenger bus at Majhipara on Rangpur-Bogura highway yesterday noon, reports our Gaibandha correspondent.

The bus hit him as he was crossing the road, killing him on the spot, police said.

His body was sent to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The driver and helper managed to flee the scene after the incident.

1 held over attacking journo on polls day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was arrested on Wednesday night at the capital's Rayerbazar in connection with an attack on Mostafizur Rahman Sumon, a crime reporter at online news portal Agami News, during Saturday's city polls.

Ismael Hossain (20) was placed on a one-day remand after police produced him before a Dhaka court yesterday, court sources said.

"We're trying to identify other attackers from video footage, pictures of the incidents and eyewitness accounts," said Altaf Hossain, sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station and also investigation officer of the case filed in this regard.

Sumon was attacked while taking photos of a gathering of Awami League activists in the area on the election day.

Followers of an AL-backed councillor candidate swooped on him wielding sharp weapons and snatched his phone, his colleagues said.

Sumon was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he had to get six stitches on his head, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Badrul Ahsan

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University Press Limited, he had co-authored a paper titled "A Strategic Model for Multinational Corporate Social Responsibility in the Third World" with Kansas State University Professor Jay Laughlin.

He also wrote "In Search of a Nation", a book on the philosophy of history, published by Mowla Brothers in 1992.

In 2004, the publication released "A Good Man in the Woods and Other Essays", the first collection of his columns written for The Daily Star.

'Be a lifelong learner'

Gowher Rizvi says at UIU convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday urged private university authorities to develop their graduates to face the challenges of this era of modernisation.

"The fourth industrial revolution is around the corner; so, we need to develop skilled human resources in order to cope with developed technologies around the globe," she said.

The education minister was speaking as chair at the 6th convocation of United International University (UIU) on its campus near Badda in the capital. Besides achieving good academic results, Dipu Moni urged the graduates to be a good human to make "a golden Bangladesh" in line with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream.

"Private universities are playing a good role alongside public universities for making skilled manpower. But the universities must take measures to remove all barriers with a view to maintaining quality higher education in the country," she added.

She also said the Awami League-led government has been working to transform the country's population into efficient workforce to cope up with new technologies and innovations at the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Prof Dr Gowher Rizvi said university is not just a training institution.

"Professional posts, including a public servant, lawyer, doctor or businessman confine you [graduates] to one particular area of work, but university gives you a wide range of scopes and tools through which you can change your life; it gives you the lifelong ability to survive," he said.

Citing more research initiatives among the country's universities, he said the key role of university is to produce new knowledge.

"Be a lifelong learner to become a successful person in life," Rizvi urged graduates.

Among others, UIU Board of Trustees' Chairman Hasan Mahmood Raja; Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, and Pro-VC Prof Hasnan Ahmed spoke at the event.

A total of 2,352 students from different disciplines were conferred undergraduate and graduate degrees while four meritorious students received gold medals for exceptional academic performance.

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7 February 2020 First Death Anniversary of Major General Anwar Hussain
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In loving remembrance of Major General Anwar Hussain (retired) who passed away on this day-7th February, 2019, one year ago, we remember him and thank him for his wisdom, equanimity and humour and celebrate his love for his wife, his daughters, his grandson, his family, friends and his country. Now in The Almighty Allah's embrace, he will always remain in our hearts and minds, guiding us through the future.

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This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
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Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Kanteswar Barman
Executive Engineer
LGED, Thakurgaon
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GD-247