

20,000 people vulnerable to landslide in Rangamati town

Clusters of houses built by cutting hills illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

About 20,000 people living in houses built by cutting hills in Rangamati town, are vulnerable to landslides during rain.

Clusters of houses on hill slopes and those built by cutting hills sprang up in the tourist town due to authorities' apathy for long in enforcing environmental laws, according to sources.

As rains set in triggering apprehension of landslides, district information officials have finished their duty by making loudspeaker announcements in the town urging the residents to leave vulnerable houses and take shelter in safer places.

Every year during rainy season, landslides kill many people in the hill town and other areas of the district.

This correspondent during visit yesterday and the day before scopes of poor families living in vulnerable houses in Reserve Bazar, Police Line, Omdamiah Hill, and areas near Public Health office, Women College, SP office, Indrapuri Cinema Hall, Sadar Hospital, Vedvedi, Muslim Para, Juba Unnayan office, Swarnatila, Rajmoni Para and CHT Development Board office. Clusters of thatched houses in the areas have been built by cutting hills.

Many more such thatched and semi-pucca houses are there on both sides of Chittagong-Rangamati road, which are very risky in the rainy season.

The district administration so far did not take any step to stop building houses on hill slopes or by cutting hills.



PHOTO STAR

With the onset of rains, people living in hillside houses at Rangamati town face risk of landslide any time.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Md. Nurul Amin said he has given directive to all upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) to alert people about possible landslide.

"I also ordered district information office to make announcements in the district town so that

people can be take shelter in safer places". He however claimed that any major hill cutting in Rangamati did not take place in recent days.

BSF leaves Indian's body in Bangladesh land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed an unidentified Indian national and left the body inside Bangladesh territory. Local people found the body lying near Bhadiali Jame Mosque at village Bhadiali in Kalaroa upazila yesterday morning.

The man died as BSF men hit him on the head with bayonet, BDR and police said.

3 quit KCC polls race protesting criminals' participation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three candidates for councillor posts in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) have withdrawn from the polls race in protest against participation of a few people who are 'hated by peace-loving people and wanted by law enforcers'.

The three candidates -- Jahangir Hossain and Liaquat Hossain of ward No 4 and Kazi

Golam Mustafa of ward No 17 -- submitted their petitions for withdrawal to Returning Officer Md Mohsin Ali, also deputy election commissioner, on Thursday evening.

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following professional position in its Dhaka Office:

JOB TITLE: Health Specialist, (Maternal Health/HIV/AIDS) Health and Nutrition Section, NO-C MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful candidate will be responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the quality assurance and capacity building component of the project.

QUALIFICATIONS: Advanced university degree in Public Health, Medical Science, Community Development, Social Science or related technical field.

WORK EXPERIENCE: At least 5 to 8 years progressively responsible work experience at the national levels in programme management, monitoring and evaluation, in a related field.

- SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES: 1. Knowledge of the latest developments and technology in related field 2. Negotiating and team building skills with counterparts both from Govt. and non-government as well with other development partners 3. Be responsible for keeping up-to-date with the latest UNICEF programme and management policies and communication/community development strategies/tools (including those related to gender) 4. Be aware of and sensitive to, the local development and political environment 5. Ability to conceptualize, plan and execute ideas. 6. Ability to express clearly and concisely ideas and concepts in written and oral form 7. Fluency in English and Bangla both verbal and written 8. Knowledge of computer systems, including internet navigation and various office applications.

COMPETENCIES: Commitment, Drive for Results, Embracing Diversity, Integrity, Self awareness/regulation, Team work, Communication/Networking, Tact/Building Trust, Managing Resources, Judgement, Leadership.

CONTRACTS AND REMUNERATION: The selected candidate will be awarded a 2 year Fixed Term contract and remuneration is at the NO-C level of the United Nations local salary scale.

COMMUNICATIONS: Applications with CV should be forwarded to the HR Officer, Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Sheraton Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, by Sunday 27 July 2008.

UNICEF IS COMMITTED TO GENDER EQUALITY IN ITS MANDATE AND ITS STAFF. WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY FEMALES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Three die of unidentified disease in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three people died while three others were attacked by an unknown disease at Bharapara and Mazikandi villages in Kendua upazila in five days, hospital sources said.

Moti Mia, 55, of Bharapara village died on July 5 while Babikul Islam of Maizkandi village died on July 7 and Yasin also of Maizkandi village died on July 8. All of them were undergoing treatment at Kendua Upazila Health Complex.

Three others who were attacked by the disease are German Mia, 12, of Kabichandpur village, Kanchon Mia, 45, and Ashraful Islam, 12, both of Bharapara village.

As Ashraful's condition worsened, he was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

When contacted, Netrakona civil surgeon (CS) Sudhir Chandra Banik said the government constituted a seven-member investigation team headed by deputy CS Abdur Rafique to investigate the incident.

"After the investigation we can be confirmed about the disease", the CS said.

WP demands ration for the poor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Sathkira Workers Party (WP) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Chief Adviser through the deputy commissioner Md Kefayatullah to press its 16-point demand.

Party leaders led by Mostafa Lutfulam submitted the memorandum.

The demands include introduction of rationing for poor people, steps to control price hike of essentials and action against hoarders, stop extortion, termination of lease system of local markets, strengthening BADC (Bangladesh Agriculture Corporation) to supply agri-inputs through it to farmers at fair prices.

Ghatail Jubo Dal secretary held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Ghatail upazila Jubo Dal secretary Altob Hossain and his two brothers were arrested yesterday for allegedly attacking neighbours at Sadhurpara Galganda village, injuring five people including three women earlier on the day.

Critically injured Mahbubur Rahman Lebu, Mofazzal and Shammi were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while rest two were admitted to Ghatail Upazila Health Complex, police and locals said.

They said, in a sequel to previous family feud, the Jubo Dal leader and his accomplices attacked the houses of Mahbubur Rahman Lebu and Mofazzal Hossain and beat inmates severely.

Unite against anti-liberation forces

Speakers say at Rajshahi NAP meeting

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi district unit of National Awami Party (NAP) at a meeting here yesterday formed a new 31-member district committee with Fazlul Haq as its president and Mustafizur Rahman Khan as secretary.

A 31 member city committee was also formed with Mosharraf Hossain Akhunji as president and Saidul Islam as secretary.

NAP general secretary Enamul Haque was the chief guest at the meeting, held at Rajshahi Public Library Hall.

Workers Party Politburo member also Rajshahi mayoral candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha and Awami League central leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton also attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the NAP secretary demanded immediate steps by the government to contain price hike of essentials and boost agriculture production by giving subsidy to inputs.

Basdha said political parties

will not support any move to introduce 'controlled democracy' in the country. He also demanded trial of war criminals and urged all nationalist forces to unite against anti-liberation forces.

Besides NAP leaders, the meeting was addressed by Rajshahi CPB president Abul Kalam Azad, JSD secretary Zulfikar Mannan Zamri, Workers Party leader Liakat Ali Liku, Mahila Parishad secretary Kapana Roy and Sammlito Sangskritik Jote secretary Dr. Syed Shafiqul Alam.

Dumb woman in safe custody for a year

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

A dumb young woman rescued from delinquents in August last year, is still staying in safe custody at Khagrachhari district jail as authorities failed to find out her identity or any other relatives.

The woman sometimes becomes crazily apparently seeking her near and dear ones, jail sources said.

"The woman does not want to stay in jail. Sometimes she hits the jail guards and starts groaning. She might belong to a Muslim family as she was on salwar, kamiz and burqa during her recovery," said Mohammad Faridur Rahman Rubel, jailer of Khagrachhari district jail.

Assistant Sub Inspector Mohammad Khokon of Dighinala Police Station said they rescued the four feet eight inches tall 20-year-old dumb woman from the hands of delinquent people at Merung Bazar on August 20 in 2007.

With a bit black complexion, the woman has a cut mark on the index finger of left hand and a black spot on the elbow of her right hand, he said.



Police produced her before the court and the then first class magistrate Ahmed Kabir sent her to safe custody in Khagrachhari jail.

After visiting Khagrachhari district jail with a six-member team on July 2, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shahadat Hossen urged local reporters to publish news so that woman's relatives can identify her.

"She needs a caring atmosphere. If we fail to get any of her relative, we will send her on the safe custody of Social Welfare Department," he said.

Forest Act to be amended to protect adivasi interest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Chief adviser's special assistant on forest and environment, Raja Debashish Roy has said the present Forest Act will be amended, if required, to protect the interests of indigenous people.

The government is thinking about preservation of indigenous people's quota in the local government polls and introduction of forest administrations that would include locals to protect the interest of forest dweller indigenous people, he said at a view exchange meeting with indigenous leaders on Thursday afternoon.

As Raja Debashish Roy reached Dokhala Rest House of Modhupur upazila in Tangail, local indigenous Garo people welcomed him with their traditional songs and dances. Representatives of indigenous people of 60 villages in Modhupur told Debashish Roy about their problems including land issues, harassment by filing forest cases and problems over preservation of indigenous people's quota in education and job sectors.

"Earlier, forest-related cases had been filed indiscriminately against indigenous people including children, old people and even dead people. It cannot be allowed to continue," he said. He urged the indigenous people to find out ways to preserve their rights.

'Take steps to save Kobadak'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Kapatakha Banchao Andolon Samannay Committee (coordination committee to save River Kabodak) have demanded re-excitation of the silted river.

After forming a human chain in front of Jessore Press Club in the town on Thursday, they submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser through Jessore deputy commissioner, urging to meet their eight-point demand including re-excitation of the Kobadok.

Once a mighty and potential river, the Kobadok in its 75-kilometre way has narrowed down to assume the shape of a canal, said the memorandum.

"In absence of continuous dredging, the river, once considered as a boon of nature, has turned into a bane as water logging affects about 50 lakh people in the region, they said.

Among others, Kabodak Bachao Andolon Samannay Committee convenor Anil Biswas, Rashidur Rahman Rashid, Hafizur Rahman, Alhaj Kawsar Ali were present



PHOTO STAR

Kapatakha Banchao Andolon Samannay Committee forms a human chain in front of Jessore Press Club on Thursday.

Advertisement for a government job titled 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (People's Republic of Bangladesh Government). It details the recruitment process, including the examination date (28th July 2008), location (Dhaka), and the number of positions (28). The advertisement lists the eligibility criteria, including citizenship, age, and educational requirements. It also provides a list of specific job titles and their respective numbers, such as 'শীতকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া বা অন্য কোনও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া' and 'শীতকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া বা অন্য কোনও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া'.