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## Mudslide kills 10 in Lama

### Six of a family perished; 50 houses destroyed

**MONIRUL ISLAM MONU**, back from Lama, Bandarban

Incessant rain for the last four days triggered a massive mudslide at Harinmara of Lama in Bandarban early yesterday killing 10 people, including six of a family, and destroying 50 houses.

Nine of the deceased were Abul Hashem, his mother Guljar Begum, wife Amina Begum, son Yunus, daughter Setara Begum, son-in-law Omar Faruk, Alamgir, Rifat and Rehana Akhter. The identity of the other person could not be known.

After the mudslide, the district administration over horn speakers asked locals in vulnerable areas to move to safer places.

Dil Mohammad, father of Omar Faruk, said, "I woke up hearing the roaring sound around 3:00am. Homes around the

spot where the mudslide occurred were razed to the ground. I tried to get to those buried under the mud but it was of little use."

During a spot visit, The Daily Star correspondent saw hardly any trace of the 50 houses that used to be there. The huge area was ravaged and only the road stretching up to Lama via Gozalia from Aziz Nagar, built by cutting a hill, remained. Around 2,000 non-indigenous settlers used to live there and the area appeared to be devoid of trees.

Locals were seen assisting firemen in recovering the bodies.

Three fire engines from Chakaria and Pekua in Cox's Bazar and Satkania of Chittagong went to the spot and started recovery operations. With the help of locals they recovered the 10 bodies in seven hours. Several high officials of

Bandarban took part in the operation.

A fire service official told The Daily Star yesterday that they have concluded their rescue and recovery operation after making sure that none was still buried under the mud.

Mohammad Ismail, chairman of Lama upazila parishad, said the district council and Lama upazila parishad have taken a joint initiative to move people at risky places to safer areas.

Mohammad Shaheen, an official of Bandarban Soil Preservation Centre, said there was no rain in the area for the last one and a half months and several large cracks had developed in the hill and at different spots. He apprehended that driving rain during the last four days might have caused the mudslide.

Bandarban Zila Parishad allocated

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## TIPAIMUKH SITE

### Heavy rain delays Dhaka team's visit

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA**, New Delhi

The visiting 10-member team of Bangladeshi parliamentarians yesterday could not visit the site of proposed Tipaimukh Hydropower Project in the Indian state of Manipur due to heavy rain.

The delegation led by veteran AL lawmaker Abdur Razzak took off in a helicopter from Guwahati in Assam and headed to the project site but could not proceed further as heavy downpour forced it to return.

However, the delegation,

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## Changes in cabinet

### 6 new ministers inducted; reshuffle in portfolios

**SHAKHAWAT LITON** and **HASAN JAHI** TUSHER

### PORTFOLIOS

**Minister for Shipping**  
Shajahan Khan

**Minister for Primary and Mass Education**  
Afsarul Amin

**State Minister for Home Affairs**  
Shamsul Haque Tuku

**State Minister for Forest and Environment**  
Hasan Mahmud

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18 state ministers.

Ruling AL lawmaker Shajahan Khan, who had been

working as the chief of a parliamentary committee before his new assignment, was sworn in as a minister, while AL lawmakers Promod Mankin, Mujibur Rahman Fakir, Mahbubur Rahman, Enamul Haque and Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury were inducted as state ministers.

Advised by the prime minister, President Zillur Rahman made the new appointments and administered the oath of office in a simple ceremony in Bangabhaban.

Immediately after the induction ceremony, the prime minister said the

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This file photo shows homes built by cutting hills at Salimpur area of Chittagong city hoodwinking consequence. Inset, firemen and locals recovering a body at Harinmara of Lama in Bandarban yesterday after the early morning mudslide.

PHOTO: STAR

## ARCF supplied grenades for Aug 21 attack

Moulana Tajuddin received the grenades, arrested ARCF organiser Mansur tells interrogators

**KAILASH SARKAR** and **SHARIFUL ISLAM**

Kashmir-based militant outfit Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF), which works together with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), supplied grenades to LeT Bangladesh chapter leader Moulana Tajuddin for the August 21 attack in 2004.

This was revealed by detained LeT leader Indian national Moulana Mansur Ali as the government pushes for further investigation into the grisly attack particularly to unearth if any influential quarters supplied the grenades.

Mansur, who is also an ARCF organiser, told Detective Branch (DB) during interrogation that an ARCF leader, who is also from India, directly handed over the grenades to Tajuddin, brother of detained former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu.

The investigators however did not reveal the

Indian national's name for the sake of investigation.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in its charge sheet only mentioned that Tajuddin had supplied the grenades. But the CID investigators could not find out who handed over the grenades to him and how.

Chief Public Prosecutor Syed Rezaur Rahman on June 25 submitted a prayer to a Dhaka court for further investigation into the attack, which aimed to assassinate AL President Sheikh Hasina in 2004.

Rahman in his prayer argued that experts and influential people who had supplied the grenades were still untraced.

The court which has already heard the prayer on three dates has fixed August 3 for an order in this regard.

"We're expecting more important leads

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## Prof Yunus honoured

16 chosen for US 'Medal of Freedom'

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama will next month award the highest US civilian honor to 16 "agents of change" including Prof Muhammad Yunus, Desmond Tutu and Stephen Hawking, the White House said Thursday.

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## Hill cutting poses risk of landslide

Cox's Bazar hills levelled for construction

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Hill cutting goes on unabatedly in different areas of Cox's Bazar town and suburbs for building dwellings, raising fears of landslides.

Hilltops are being levelled to collect earth for constructing dwellings and the forest department raids are failing to stop this.

During a visit to different hills under the forest department in Cox's Bazar municipality, it was seen the hills were being levelled even in torrential rains, ignoring the risk of mudslides.

Soil flowing down from the hills with rainwater was filling the drains, clogging them and triggering waterlogging down below.

Acting Mayor of Cox's Bazar Municipality

Sarwar Kamal said when the administration's drive against hill cutting is relaxed during the rains the hill cutting goes on. He said some influential people are behind this.

Chief of Cox's Bazar Paribesh Bachao Andolon Sharmin Reshmin said hill cutting has been going on in full swing during heavy raining of the last several days.

She claimed the administration does not take any action against it even though complaints are filed in this regard. The forest department, Police and district administration's joint drives failed to arrest the culprits, she said.

Many dwellings and buildings of business

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## AL on path of its 'future leadership'

Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday finalised names of 26 executive members of the party's working committee in consultation with the AL presidium members.

Hasina finalised the names at the first meeting of the newly formed party presidium at her official residence Jamuna. However, the names are awaiting announcement. Moreover, the names of the party's joint secretary and the information and research

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## Call for UN recognition of 1971 genocide

International conference urges diplomatic efforts, govt readiness for war crime trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international conference on genocide in the capital yesterday called for a campaign for United Nations' recognition of the mass killings during the 1971 Liberation War as genocide.

Historians, academics and international legal experts told the conference, which ended yesterday, that the government should make necessary preparations for trying the war criminals and pursue diplomatic efforts to drum up international support in favour of the move.

"The conference calls upon the media and the civil society at home and abroad to focus on the genocide in Bangladesh, and launch a campaign so that this is recognised in the UN as Genocide," says the declaration of the two-day Second International Conference on Genocide, Truth and Justice organised by the Liberation War Museum at Cirdap auditorium.

Liberation War Museum Trustee Tariq Ali read out the declaration of the conference, saying Bangladesh needs to learn from the experiences of other countries in

trying war criminals to overcome the complexities of the trial process.

Legal experts and academics from Germany, Vietnam, Hong Kong, UK and Canada were also present.

Endorsing the government move to prosecute the perpetrators of the genocide during the 1971 Liberation War, the conference emphasised collection and processing of testimonies, addressing the victims' sufferings and recognition of their rights and broader involvement of people in the trial process.

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## 28 killed in serial bomb attacks on Baghdad mosques

AP, Baghdad

Bombs exploded near five Shia mosques in Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 28 people, in an apparent coordinated attack that targeted worshippers leaving Juma prayers, Iraqi police and hospital officials said.

The bombings shattered a period of relative calm in the Iraqi capital, raising to at least 303 Iraqis killed in what has been one of the least deadly months in Iraq for both Iraqi civilians and US troops since the war began. Seven American troops have been killed the lowest monthly total since the war started in March 2003, according to an AP tally.

The attack also underscores concerns about the abilities of Iraqi security forces to maintain security gains now that US troops have withdrawn from major urban areas. Some Sunni insurgents still seek to re-ignite sectarian violence with the majority Shias and reverse Iraq's security gains in the past two years.

The deadliest attack Friday came when a car bomb exploded near a Shia mosque in the northern Baghdad neighbourhood of Shaab, killing at least 24 people and wounding 17 others, said two Iraqi police officials and a medical official.

At about the same time, near simultaneous explosions struck near the al-Rasoul mosque near the Diyala bridge, in southern Baghdad, killing four worshippers and wounding 17 others, the two police officials said.

A roadside bomb exploded near al-Hakim mosque in Kamaliyah area in eastern Baghdad, wounding six worshippers.

Bombs also exploded near Imam al-Sadiq mosque in the religiously mixed neighbourhood of Ilam in southwestern Baghdad, wounding 4 worshippers, and near the al-Sadrain mosque in the Zafaraniyah area of southeastern Baghdad,

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Barrels that contained industrial dyes are washed in the Buriganga near the Second Buriganga Bridge behind Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital worsening the condition of the heavily polluted river.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Top outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiha

A regional leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) Janajuddho 'faction' was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and law enforcers at Nabdah of Alamdanga in Chuadanga early yesterday.

The deceased, Mozam Ali, 42, was severely injured in the "shootout" and rushed to Chuadanga sadar hospital where he succumbed at around 7:30am.

Acting on a tip-off, separate teams of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-6 and Alamdanga police swooped on Nabdah Eidgah where a group of Janajuddho men led by Mozam were holding a secret meeting at about 5:50am.

As they reached the place, the gang opened fire prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Mozam's accomplices, however, managed to flee.

Police recovered one pistol and 3 bullets from the spot.

Police said Mozam committed several murders and other crimes like extortion and robbery in the district.