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Landslide death toll rises to 56
Body of army man found

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The bodies of the missing army person and three others were recovered yesterday after they were crushed under landslides in different areas in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday.

With the recovery of the four bodies in Ukhiya upazila, the death toll in the landslides rose to 56 in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

The namaz-e-janaza of army person Aslam of Himchhari barracks was held at 5:30pm yesterday. His body would be sent to his village home in Natore for burial.

The other three victims are Abdul Jaill, 48, son of Sultan Ahmed of Pathuarterk village, Md Arman, 16, son of Sirajul Islam, and Mostafa Kamal, 12, son of Md Hashem of Chowdhury Para.

50,000 still at landslide risk
Govt could not rehabilitate them 2 years into Ctg deaths

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Around 50,000 people living on the slopes of hills in Chittagong are at great risk of landslide in the rainy season.

Though they are still living in danger, the authorities concerned are yet to evacuate them or take any effective measure in this regard.

Of them, around 15,000 people are living on the slopes or bottom of 12 hills that were identified as "Red Zones," by a government-formed technical committee in 2008, sources said.

The hill management committee was formed following a landslide of Chittagong hills on June 11, 2007 that left 127 people killed. It also saw another landslide on August 18, 2008 that killed 11 people but the committee is yet to do anything visible.

The committee had identified some risky hillsides and valleys. It suggested declaring the risky areas as "Red Zones" and afforestation after shifting people to a suitable place.

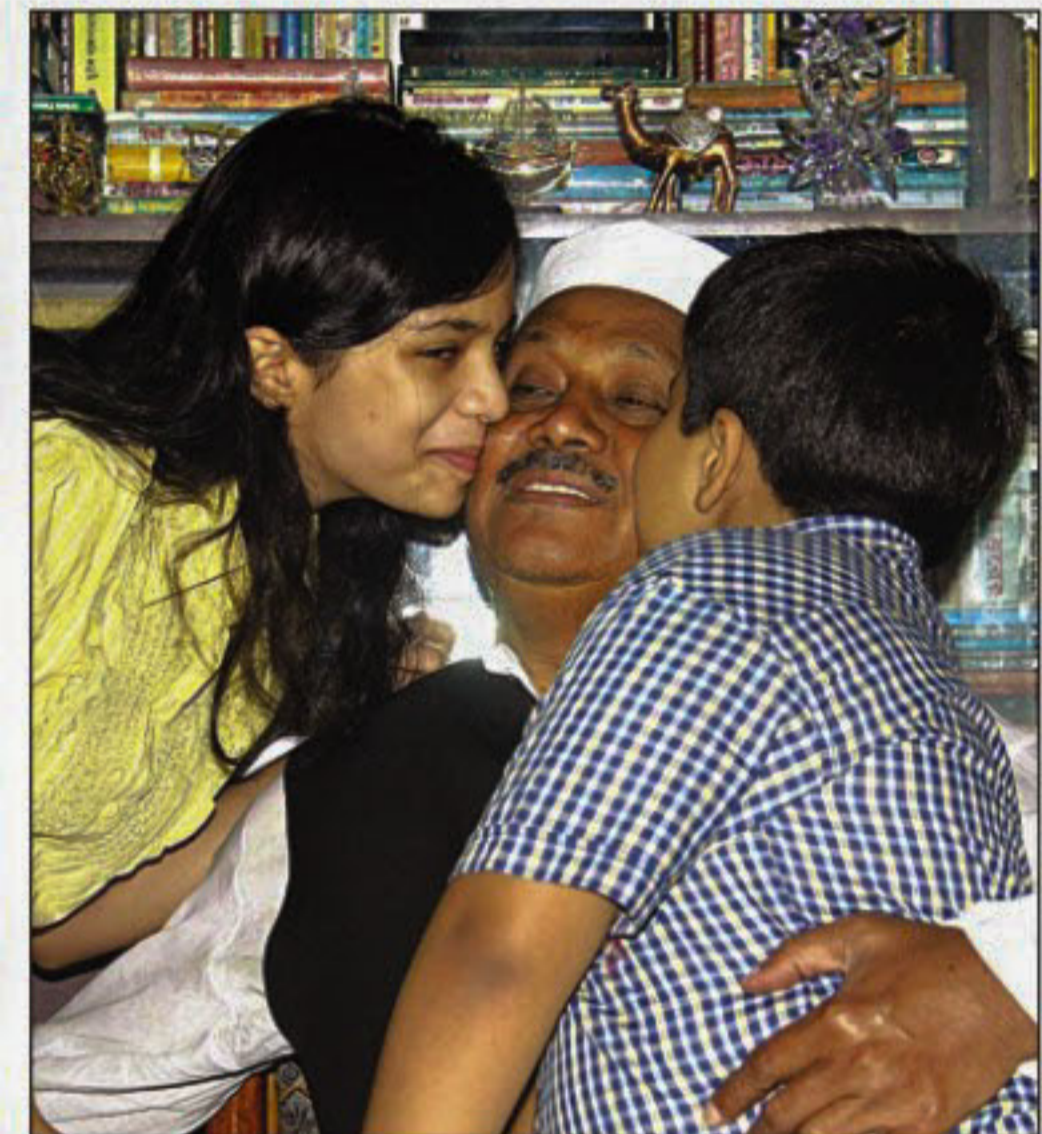
Following the August landslide on 2008, the technical committee, headed by the chairman of Chittagong Development Authority, had also identified the 12 hills as risky.

The hills include Pari Pahar, AK Khan Pahar, several hills at Lalkhan Bazar as well as the hills of Chittagong City Corporation, public works department (PWD) and Bangladesh Railway.

Ten to 15 thousand people are living in the slopes of the hills, sources said.



Neighbourhoods are still built cutting down slopes of hills and in the valleys ignoring the dangers of landslides. The photo was taken at Matijharna near Lalkhanbazar in Chittagong. PHOTO: STAR



Chittagong City Corporation mayoral candidates Mohiuddin, left, and Manjur, right, spend time with their grand children at home yesterday since electoral campaigning was over 32 hours before the poll today. PHOTO: STAR



Chittagong City Corporation mayoral candidates Mohiuddin, left, and Manjur, right, spend time with their grand children at home yesterday since electoral campaigning was over 32 hours before the poll today. PHOTO: STAR

Mahmudur remanded in sedition case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed Detective Branch (DB) of police to take Mahmudur Rahman on a four-day remand, subject to his recovery from illness, in connection with a sedition case.

Mahmudur, acting editor of recently closed daily Amar Desh, was remanded earlier for a total of seven days in three other cases.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain directed the

SUBSIDY FOR SCHOOLS
Govt discloses another list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday came up with a new list of 1,612 non-government educational institutions for monthly payment order (MPO) facilities.

The education ministry finalised the list of schools, colleges, technical institutions and madrasas after revising a list of 1,483 institutions previously announced by prime minister's Education Adviser Alauddin Ahmed on May 31.

The list was posted on the ministry's website (www.moedu.gov.bd) yesterday.

Earlier on May 6, the government listed 1,022 educational institutions, but the list was cancelled following the lawmakers' discontent with it.

8 killed as bus plunges into ditch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Eight people, including three of a family, were killed and 20 others injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Manikganj yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hanufa Begum, 45, of Charkatari village in Daulatpur upazila and her two children Imran, 12, and Asmani, 10.

The identities of the other victims could not be known immediately and 16 of them

Stalkers kill one girl, throw acid on other

STAR REPORT

A schoolgirl was killed and another suffered severe burn injuries in two separate stalking incidents in Satkhira and Noakhali districts on Tuesday and yesterday.

In other incidents, a girl has to stop going to school for continual threats given by a stalker in Chapainawabganj while six of a family were beaten for protesting a stalking incident in Sirajganj.

Our Satkhira correspondent reports, a gang of stalkers Tuesday chopped a schoolgirl to death as she spurned the love proposal of a stalker at Atarai village in Tala upazila of the district.

The victim was identified as Asma Khatun, 15, a student of class ten and daughter of Hanif Sardar of the village.

Quoting locals police said Arman Nikari alias Sharbat, 20, of the same upazila used to stalk Asma and propose her on her way to school.

As she refused his proposal, the stalker continued to threaten her.

On the day of the incident, Asma was going to her tutor's house when a gang of three led by Sharbat swooped on her near the jute field at Jiala Nalta village and chopped her randomly, leaving her seriously injured.

Hearing her screams, locals rescued her in a critical condition, but she succumbed to her injuries on the way to hospital.

The victim's father filed a case with Tala Police Station accusing three stalkers.

Our Noakhali staff correspondent reports, a teenager girl suffered severe burn injuries as local criminals had thrown acid at her at Motipur village under Noakhali Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Sources said the criminals entered the

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OnlinePoll

Do you support the government plan to launch student councils in public primary schools to create democratic culture among the children?

Yes (47.12%)
No (51.63%)
No Comments (1.25%)

Total votes: 798

TODAY'S POLL

In view of the proposed VAT, tax and proposals do you think implementation of the national budget will increase the cost of living?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Govt trying hard for road, rail links to Asean nations

PM tells JS of a proposal for tri-nation body to implement it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has proposed a tri-nation committee involving China and Myanmar for implementation of the proposed road and rail links between Bangladesh and China, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament.

While replying to lawmakers' queries, the premier said she already raised the matter before the Chinese authorities so that Bangladesh, Myanmar and China could work together in a coordinated way for implementation of the road and rail links.

She said her government has actively been trying to link Bangladesh with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) and China in the interest of the people of this country.

"Effective roads and rail communications will be set up among the Asean countries once the proposed project is implemented," she said. Therefore, political, economic, commercial and cultural relations with China and other south-eastern countries of Asia will be interrelated, she added.

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