



Like many other areas, Muslimpara of Khagrachhari district town and Tengargaon village in Noarai union of Chhatak upazila in Sunamganj district go under as flood situation worsened further amid heavy rainfall yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

# Rain triggers landslide, floods in Bandarban, Khagrachhari

*Baby killed, thousands marooned; situation worsens in Sylhet, Sunamganj*

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A baby was killed and his grandmother critically injured in a rain-triggered landslide in Bandarban Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Overall flood situation in Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Sylhet and Sunamganj districts has worsened, report our correspondents.

In Bandarban, Sajib Hossain, one and a half-year-old son of Inu Haque Chowdhury, died and Inu's mother, 60, was badly injured as chunks of mud from a hill fell on their house at Ghonapara in New Gulshan area of Sadar upazila, said Ranadhir Dutta, station-master of Bandarban fire service unit.

At least eight houses were damaged in similar landslides in New Gulshan, Langi Para and Banarupa Para areas of the upazila amid incessant rain in the morning, he added.

"The people living at the foot of hills have been

asked to evacuate the risky areas. The Bandarban Disaster Management Committee will sit in an emergency meeting today [Thursday] evening," said Mizanul Haque Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of the district.

Meanwhile, Army Para, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Islampur, Member Para, Officers' Club, Bus station, Pulpara, Army Hospital and Hafezghona in Bandarban municipal area have gone under water due to the downpour.

District administration and municipality authorities have opened shelter centres for the flood-hit people.

Road communications between the district and Rangamati was suspended yesterday morning as Pulpara Bridge went under water, said Jhantu Das, general secretary of Bandarban Bus Owners' Association.

Soil and Water Preservation Centre office of the district recorded 139 mm of rainfall in the district

in 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday.

Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers were flowing above the danger level due to onrush of water from the hills.

At least 3,000 families have been marooned by the flood that hit Bandarban for the fourth time, Bandarban municipality Mayor Md Javed Reza said, adding that six shelters were set up in the affected areas and food, water, and other daily necessities will be distributed among the flood-stricken people.

Around 50,000 people in the hill district are living at the foot of hills ignoring the risk of landslide, the district administration sources said.

On August 1, six people including five of a family were killed and four others injured in a landslide at Lama Upazila of the district.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent reports: Muslimpara, Ganjapara, Shantinagar, Shanginala areas of the district town, Choto Marung, Bara

Marung, Kabakhali area of Dighinala upazila and many other areas of Mahalchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district have been flooded due to the heavy rainfall for the last two days, district administration sources said.

Thousands of affected families have taken shelter at safe places including nearby schools and shelter homes.

The local administration is collecting the list of affected people and process is underway to distribute dry foods, said Muhammad Wahiduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent adds: With continuous onrush of floodwater from the upstream for over a week, water from the Surma, Cholti, Patli and Jadukata rivers have flooded large areas, affecting around 15,000 families in Doarabazar, Tahirpur, Biswamvarpur and Jamalganj upazilas in Sunamganj district.

## TANGAIL BNP LEADER FARUQUE MURDER CASE Charges pressed against ex-BCL leader, 7 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Charges have been pressed against eight people, including former vice-president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) central committee Saniyat Khan Bappa, in Tangail BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Faruque murder case.

Sub-Inspector Ashok Kumar Sinha of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police in Tangail submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on Wednesday afternoon.

The seven other accused are Shajahan Miah, Shafiqur Rahman, Sanjit Ghosh, Azad Fakir, Sujon Miah,

Sanwar Hossain and Roosevelt Ahmed.

Faruque, vice-president of Tangail Sadar upazila unit of BNP and chairman of Dainna Union Parishad in the upazila, was shot dead by a gang near his house at Battala Bazar area in Tangail town on December 20, 2013.

Faruque's younger brother Lavlu Miah lodged a murder case with Tangail Model Police Station the following day, accusing 11 Awami League men of the union. The case was later handed over to the DB for investigation.

During investigation, DB found no evidence of AL men's

involvement in the killing.

The law enforcers unearthed clue to the murder after they arrested Shajahan Miah, Sanwar Hossain and Sujon Miah, three associates of BCL leader Bappa.

During interrogation, the trio admitted to their involvement in the killing. They told law enforcers that Bappa was the mastermind behind the killing of BNP leader Faruque. They later gave confessional statement before a Tangail court.

Of the accused, Sujon, Shajahan and Sanwar are now in jail while the rest are still at large.

## 60 sued for snatching two arrestees from cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two local Awami League men among 60 people have been sued on charge of snatching two arrestees, including a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, from police in Gafargaon upazila of the district.

The accused include Rubel Miah, convener of Usthi union unit of AL in Gafargaon upazila, and Shafil Bashir Moni, an upazila level AL leader.

Police filed the case with

Pagla Police Station on Wednesday night.

Earlier on the day, a police team, acting on a tip-off, raided Kandipara Bazar area in the upazila to arrest the drug peddlers, said Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of the police station.

They arrested Russel Ahmed, president of Usthi union unit of BCL and Alam Miah, a member of the unit, from the spot.

The law enforcers also seized a pistol, two bullets

and a magazine from the possession of Russel.

When the police team was on their way to the PS, local AL men waylaid the team, scuffled with the police and took away the arrestees from them, said OC Badrul.

Three policemen, including ASI Abul Kashem, were injured during the incident, said the police official.

None was arrested in this connection as of filing of this report around 6:00pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Hill Tracts Pahari Chhatra Parishad and Hill Women's Federation bring out a procession in Bandarban town yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who raped a teenage Tripura girl in Lama upazila of Bandarban district on Tuesday night.

### RISKY SCHOOLHOUSES DECLARED ABANDONED

# Students attend classes, sit for exams under canopy

M. JAHIRUL ISLAM, Jhalakathi

Students of Dakkhin-Purbo Tarabunia Primary School in Rajapur upazila of the district are taking the second term examinations under a canopy as their school buildings have been declared abandoned.

"The canopy has been temporarily put up on a road on the bank of a canal near the school for holding the exams, but the exams stop as soon as it starts raining," said Mithu Rani Adhikari, headmistress in charge of the school.

The school was established in 1940 with two buildings, she said, adding that one building was declared abandoned in 1990s and the other recently.

The exams started on August 2, and the school authorities were compelled to hold them under the canopy.

"We have to stop the exams when it rains," teachers of the school said.

"We get wet in the rain when we attend classes outside. We stopped coming to school but we are bound to sit for exams even if it rains," said Tanima, a student of Class V.

"We repeatedly requested the concerned authorities in

writing to construct a new schoolhouse, but to no effect," said the teachers.

"I will not send my child to the school after the examination if it stays in this

condition," said a guardian of a student.

Contacted, Upazila Education Officer Dulal Krishna Halder, said he had informed the higher

authorities about the condition of the school. "I am thinking of shifting the classes to another place," the education officer said.

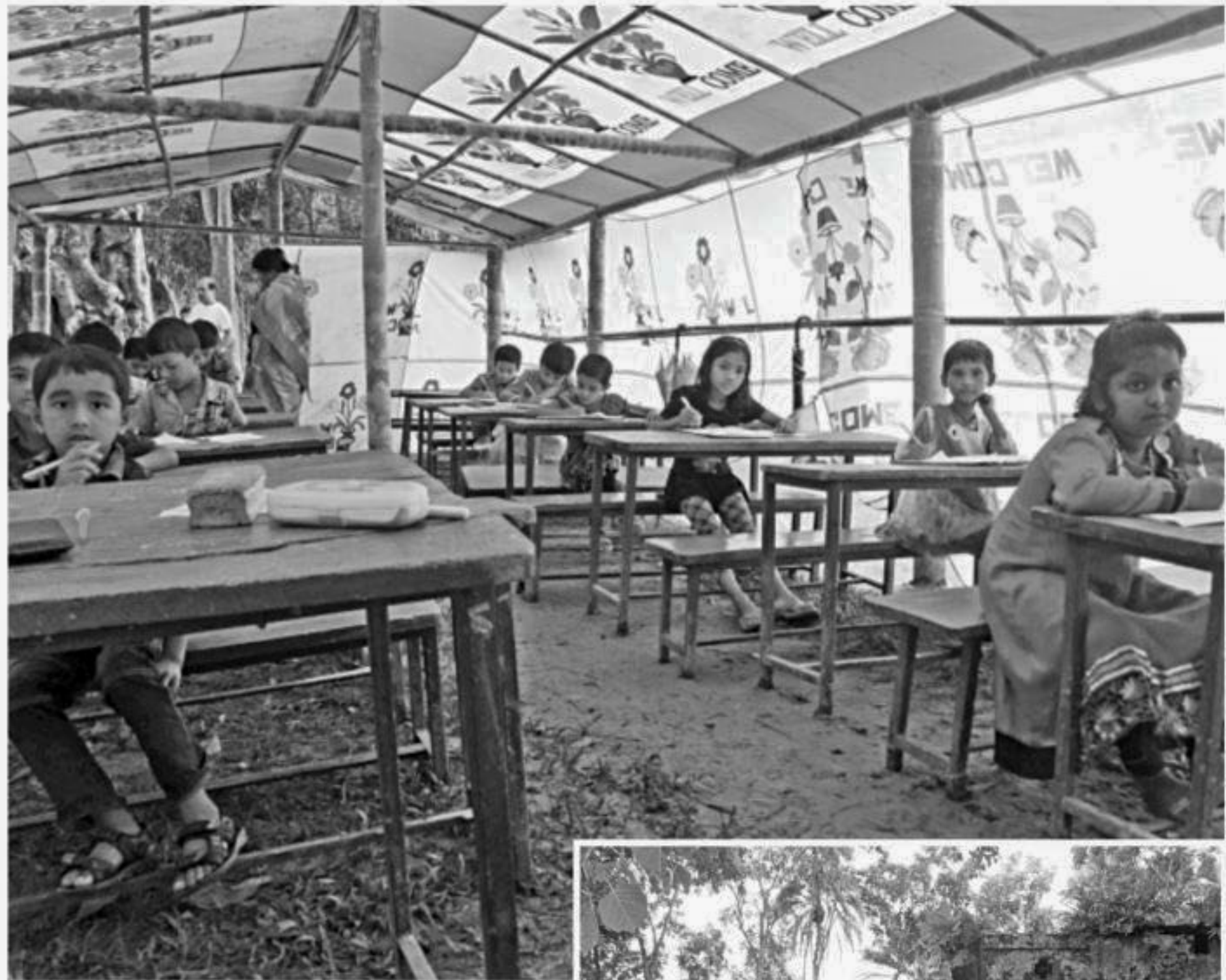


PHOTO: STAR

Students of Dakkhin-Purbo Tarabunia Primary School in Rajapur upazila under Jhalakathi district attend their second term examinations under a canopy yesterday as their school houses (inset) have become too risky for use.



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