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# ILLEGAL STONE EXTRACTION

## 2 workers killed in landslide

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Two workers were killed and as many injured in a landslide while extracting stone illegally from Nayabasti area in the district's Gowainghat upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Akram Hossain, 35, and Lichu Miah, 25, are from Tuberbazar area of Sylhet.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station, said four workers went to the area in Jafalong around 6:00am to extract stone from a trench. Suddenly, a landslide hit the pit, leaving the two dead on the spot.

The two injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. The two bodies were sent to the medical college for autopsy, the OC added.

Salah Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Gowainghat, said the landslide area had been abandoned for years as there was hardly any stone. The four were working in the trench near the dyke of a small river when the landslide struck.

Some 20 workers have been killed so far this year in landslides at different illegal quarries in Gowainghat, Companiganj and Kanaighat upazilas, according to the district administration.

A taskforce was formed several years ago with representatives from Gowainghat upazila administration, police and Border Guard Bangladesh to stop the illegal stone extraction in the upazila.

Faruk Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik's (Sujan) Sylhet chapter, said the taskforce could not take effective measures to stop the illegal activity.

He said the taskforce should have members from non-government organisations to ensure its transparency. He urged local Awami League lawmaker Imran Ahmed (Sylhet-4) to clarify his stance on illegal extraction of stone.

UNO Salah Uddin, however, claimed that the taskforce took an active role in stopping illegal stone extraction in the upazila. Yesterday's landslide scene was not under surveillance as it was not listed as a stone extraction site, he added.

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The bodies of the two workers who died in a landslide during illegal stone extraction in Nayabasti area of Sylhet's Goainghat upazila early yesterday. Inset, during a mobile court operation hours later, the upazila nirbahi officer is pouring petrol to burn down a machine used for illegal stone extraction.

# TRUMP WIRETAP CLAIM

## US Senate Intel committee sees no evidence

CNN, Washington

The speaker of the House, the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman and the ranking Democrat on the committee yesterday said that they've seen no evidence of President Donald Trump's accusation that he was wiretapped last year by his predecessor.

Senate Intelligence Committee chair Richard Burr and ranking member Mark Warner issued a statement, saying "based on the information available to us, we see no indications that Trump Tower was the subject of surveillance by any element of the United States government either before or after Election Day 2016."

The statement from the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee marks the clearest and strongest refutation of Trump's allegations since the President first made them two weeks ago. The senators' statement also addresses Trump's more recent statement that he was not merely speaking about wiretapping specifically.

The leaders of the House

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# VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS IN 2016

## All forms of crime up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child marriages, rapes and rape attempts, as reported in the media, saw a sharp rise last year compared to that of 2015, says a new survey conducted by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Almost all the victims were girls.

At least 22 children died and 69 were seriously injured out of the 304 rapes of children in 2016. Only six of the victims were boys, 259 were girls and the sex of the rest was not mentioned in the media reports.

There were 290 rapes of children the previous year.

Besides, the newspapers reported 83 cases of child marriages last year, which was only 11 in 2015.

Of the victims of 2016, four girls died -- one committed suicide failing

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CHILD RIGHTS SITUATION IN 2016		
CHALLENGES	AFFECTED IN 2016	AFFECTED IN 2015
Child marriage	83	11
Trafficking	38	32
Rape	304	290
Rape attempts	45	29
Torture	408	393



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Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

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JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:45 6:18 8:15


SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION




### আমরা শোকাহত

গ্যাডভোকেট মরহুম সিরাজুল হক -এর কনিষ্ঠ পুত্র, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী জনাব আনিসুল হক -এর একমাত্র ছোট ভাই এবং কম্পিউটার নেটওয়ার্ক সিস্টেমস (সিএনএস) লিমিটেড -এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আরিফুল হক (রনি) গত ১১ মার্চ, ২০১৭ তারিখ যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Texas-এ চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৫৬ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, দুই পুত্র, এক কন্যাসহ বহু আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন। মরহুমের আকস্মিক মৃত্যুতে সিএনএস পরিবারের প্রতিটি সদস্য গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা প্রকাশ করছি।

কম্পিউটার নেটওয়ার্ক সিস্টেমস (সিএনএস) লিমিটেড  
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A red crab at Lal Kakrar Dwip (Red Crab Island).

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

## Red crabs fast disappearing

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, back from Kuakata

Apart from the beautiful sandy beach that makes Kuakata one of the top tourist destinations, it has many other things to offer.

Nearly 8km east of Kuakata Zero Point in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, there lies an attractive island -- Lal Kakrar Dwip (Red Crab Island), locally known as Kauar Char.


The serene beach remains covered with hundreds of tiny red crabs -- some moving around while some digging nests. They can also be spotted near the estuary of the Andharmanik river, some 5km west of the zero point.

However, their number has drastically reduced over the last few years.

Tourists visit the place mostly on motorbikes. However, the crabs quickly disappear into the sand whenever they hear any sound.

"Thousands of red crabs used to move around

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**NATURE QUEST**

## Relief as Dutch snub far-right in election

Europe's populists fail first test ahead of crucial polls in Germany, France

AFP, The Hague

European leaders heaved a sigh of relief yesterday after the Dutch voted Prime Minister Mark Rutte's Liberal party back into power ahead of the far-right, with all eyes turning to polls later this year in France and Germany.

"The Dutch election carries the hope of success, not just in keeping Europe together but in... bringing together once again all of our citizens," said German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel.

After the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's victory in the US, Wednesday's election was seen as a gauge of the rise of populism in Europe.

It was "a victory for common sense and a great start for Europe's election season," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist with Berenberg bank.

The fact that most Dutch voters had "rebuked the siren songs of the populists may help a little" before a French presidential vote

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**Geert Wilders**



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