

# 5 more killed

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different places in the district.  
Sayed Mohammad Forhad, additional superintendent of Khagrachhari police, told The Daily Star that two brothers were killed in a landslide around 6:00am at Gudamchhara of Ramgarh, but other members of the family were safe.

The victims were Nur Hossain, 7, and his brother Nur Nabi, 13, sons of Mohammad Mostofa.

In another landslide, a child named Nipun Chakma, 7, son of Begobrata Chakma, was killed in Jatindra Karbari Para of Laxmichhari upazila.

Super Jyoti Chakma, chairman of Laxmichhari upazila, told this newspaper that Nipun died around 8:00am as a large chunk of mud fell on his house.

Rashedul Islam, deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari, said the district administration had earlier announced through loudspeakers that there was a possibility of landslides.

He said they called upon people to take shelter in safe places. A shelter centre opened in Shalbon area in the town and another in Manikchhari upazila. About 50 families took shelter in those centres.

In Moulvibazar, a woman and her daughter were killed in a landslide triggered by torrential rain in Dimai village of Barlekha upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent there.

Achhia Begum, 35, wife of late Abdus Sattar of Dimai, and her daughter Fahmida Begum, 13, were killed as a huge chunk of mud fell on their earthen house on a hill slope around 3:30am, said Sirajuddin, a member of Sadar union parishad.

After an hour of frantic efforts, locals pulled out the bodies of Achhia and her daughter, he said.

Shahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Barlekha Police Station, told this newspaper that Achhia's son survived the disaster as he was at a relative's house.



A woman at the Open University compound at Paschim Muslimpara in Rangamati that has been turned into a shelter for landslide victims. Children sleep, right, in a crowded room inside the shelter.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Fight militancy with stronger prosecution

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Money Laundering, a global body, suggested introducing the attorney service in Bangladesh.

Emerging from the meeting, Muhith said, "We have success stories to tell in terms of controlling money laundering and terror financing."

The taskforce members include the principal secretary to the PMO, inspector general of police, the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission and secretaries to public safety department of the home ministry.

In 2008, the then caretaker government promulgated the Attorney Service Ordinance, which later ceased to have effect.

Taking office in 2009, the Awami League-led government didn't take any initiative to introduce the service.

Several officials who attended yesterday's meeting said that once the attorney service is introduced, lawyers would be recruited for lower courts through a test such as Bangladesh Civil Service examination.

The attorneys would have a better pay. They would be accountable to the Attorney General's Office and would inform it about the updates and progress in militancy-related cases, they said.

The existing prosecution system in the country is still highly politicised, as successive governments show little will to strengthen the prosecution system with professional lawyers for the important

job, according to legal experts.

In case of a crime, it's the state's responsibility to punish the offender. And that largely depends on the performance of public prosecutors who represent the state in lower courts, they say.

The drawbacks in the prosecution system have resurfaced following media reports that a few hundred suspected militants secured bail in the last few years.

Around 150 suspected militants got bail over the last six months. Cases were filed against them under the anti-terrorism act with different police stations in the capital, Savar and Ashulia, according to media reports.

There have been fears that many of them may again get involved in militant activities.

Now, there are 4,000 public prosecutors, additional and assistant prosecutors and government pleaders, who pursue cases across the country on behalf of the state, according to law ministry sources. The remuneration for the jobs is poor which appears to be an obstacle to recruiting skilled lawyers.

A prosecutor, additional prosecutor or special prosecutor gets only Tk 500 for representing the government in a case. Even if he represents the state in 10 cases in a single day, he would still get Tk 500, say prosecutors.

At yesterday's meeting, the taskforce also decided to ask the government to set up special courts across the country for

quick disposal of money laundering cases.

Many such cases remain pending for years as courts have to deal with a huge number of cases.

The taskforce also proposed including a section in the Money Laundering Prevention Act to devise a mechanism for asset management in cases of money laundering and loan scams.

For example, the owners of the Hallmark Group were sent to jail and operation of the company was shut down following the filing of loan scam cases against them.

Under the new mechanism, instead of closing the company's operation, the government would appoint an administrator to run it and manage its assets for ensuring that the bank gets back its money.

The meeting also decided to establish another focal point for better coordination of the money laundering cases and issues. Now, there are two focal points -- the home ministry and the Attorney General's Office.

There have been some problems in coordination of such cases, said several officials who were present there.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir, Finance Secretary Hedayet Ullah Al Mamun, Banking Secretary Md Eunusur Rahman, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza, ACC Commissioner Nasiruddin Ahmed, and high officials of different ministries attended the meeting.

# Con woman held

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with the victim's relative.

To add credibility to her story, she would provide some basic information about the relative abroad, such as their name, profession, and their other relatives.

Her polished conduct often did not raise any alarm, as evident in the incidents that recently came to light.

On June 3, such a fraudster went to a house in Mirpur and told the house owner that she is the wife of her son's friend in London. The owner, an elderly woman, fell for her words.

She claimed to have come to take the woman to her younger brother's wedding and told her to wear a sari and gold ornaments immediately, saying that other invitees were waiting.

When the elderly woman went to change, the fraudster quickly opened the almirah, took out the money in it and a jewelry box and left the place immediately.

When Kazi Zahir, a neighbour of the victim, shared the incident on Facebook, the post went viral and dozens of other victims from different parts of the capital shared similar stories.

On May 16, Salma Begum, a resident of Mohammadpur opened the door to a well-dressed lady. The lady told Salma that her husband was a captain of a ship in which Salma's marine engineer son, based in Singapore, worked.

She said that her husband was downstairs and would be coming up with some fruits. She asked Salma to change. After a while, she urged Salma's daughter, who was in that room, to call her mother. When the daughter went to get Salma, the lady opened the almirah and took off with Tk 7.5 lakh in cash and ornaments.

Sajjadur Rahman, a resident of Kafrul and yet another victim, said that a con woman went to their house on June 8 with some dollars and persuaded his elderly mother to keep the money at their house for some days.

Although his mother initially refused, the woman was very persuasive. Eventually, she made the old woman lead her to their almirah to store the money. As soon as his mother was distracted, the woman took some cash and ornaments from the almirah and fled.

# AL factional clash leaves 1 dead

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incident took place when Kamarul Arefin, general secretary of the same unit and also chairman of the upazila parishad, opened fire on his men at Amla Bazar around 5:30pm.

A group of AL activists belonging to Anwarul gathered there for Iftar, he said, adding that he was scheduled to go there as well.

A long rivalry has been prevailing between the two leaders over intra-party politics and establishing supremacy in the area, insiders said.

A group of men belonging to Kamarul attacked the Iftar gathering led by his younger brother Anisul Arefin, witnesses said.

They opened fire on the people leaving around 10 men injured.

Sajjadur filed a case on June 12 with Kafrul Police Station.

Another victim, a resident of city's Hazaribagh area, who lost gold and cash worth around Tk 8 lakh, had a similar story. The victim filed a general diary with Hazaribagh Police Station in this regard.

Recently such incidents have become all too common in the city.

"How can she know all the information about our relatives? There must be some influential people behind this fraud," Sajjadur said.

They target the people whose near ones stay in the UK, the US or Canada.

With the information, they create a story to trap the victims.

On March 17, blogger and lawyer Nijhoom Majumder, currently living in the UK, updated a status on his Facebook about such a con woman.

The woman went to his house in Dhaka and told his mother that she was a fan of Nijhoom's write ups. Nijhoom was in Dhaka at the time but was out.

She started talking to his mother mentioning Nijhoom's family member's names, convincing Nijhoom's mother to believe her words.

When Nijhoom's mother called him over the phone to come home, the woman sensed trouble and left but not without taking some valuables.

**CONWOMAN ARRESTED**

A fraud, identified as 26-year-old Sadia Sunny, was arrested by Kafrul police Friday evening in front of the BRTA office in Mirpur, along with two male accomplices.

Police also seized a car they were using.

"We arrested the woman in connection with a fraudulence case," said Sub-Inspector Shamsur Rahman of Kafrul Police Station who is also the investigation officer of the case.

He said the woman was accused of fraud in Mirpur, Kafrul and in other areas of the city.

Police sent Sadia to a Dhaka court yesterday seeking a 10-day remand for interrogation.

Sajjadur and Salma identified Sadia as the perpetrator of the robbery that took place in their homes.

Police claimed to have found evidence of her involvement in other such incidents.

# GoT course

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six-hour sessions, John Donaldson from the University of Glasgow will introduce key philosophical principles by using themes from the popular show.

Through the course named 'Game of Thrones and Philosophy: Politics, Power and War', Donaldson will explore some of the many philosophical ideas embedded in the show's tales of struggle and conquest. These include the nature of political authority and legitimacy, war theory and game-theory analyses of conflict.

Donaldson, who previously ran a course examining the virtues of Homer Simpson - a popular animated character -- said he hoped it would be popular with fans and newbies alike.

"We will use important scenes from the show to introduce philosophy. The first thing we will look at is game theory," Donaldson was quoted as saying by Glasgow Live.

"Game theory was huge during the Cold War in the 1960s because Russia and the USA used it in regards to their nuclear weapons."

"The other two areas we will look at are political legitimacy and war theory," Donaldson said.

"The first looks at the right to a throne. Philosophers look at anyone's right to govern by discussing possible scenarios," he said.

"The final part is on war theory. Game of Thrones is just incessant war so we will look at whether or not war is ever justified," he added.

"In Game of Thrones, there's always a side which believes it is justified in attacking while the other side thinks otherwise. We will look at the argument from both sides while using one particular scene," he said.

Donaldson previously ran a course called 'D'oh! The Simpsons introduce philosophy'. He also ran an introductory course to philosophy based on the Star Wars series.

# Huge forest fires kill 62

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between Pedrogao Grande, Figueiro do Vinhos to the west and Castanheira de Pera to the north, which 24 hours before had glowed bright green with eucalyptus plants and pine trees, were completely gutted by the flames.

A thick layer of white smoke hovered over either side of a national motorway for a distance of about 20 kilometres (12 miles), as blackened trees leaned listlessly over charred soil.

A burnt-out car sat outside partly destroyed and abandoned houses, while a few metres away police in face masks surrounded the corpse of a man hidden under a white sheet.

Secretary of State for the Interior Jorge Gomes said 62 people burned to death, mostly trapped in their cars engulfed by flames in the Leiria region.

"It is difficult to say if they were fleeing the flames or were taken by surprise," he said.

More than 50 people were injured, five critically, including one child and four firefighters.

"The number of fatalities could still rise," Costa said. "The priority now is to save those people who could still be in danger."

**FIRE RAGING ON FOUR FRONTS**

The European Union said it would provide firefighting planes following a request from Lisbon.

"France has offered three planes through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and they will be quickly sent to assist the local emergency efforts," EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said.

Portugal was sweltering under a severe heatwave over the weekend, with temperatures topping 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in several regions.

About 60 forest fires broke out across the country during the night, with around 1,700 firefighters battling to put them out.

"The fire is still raging on four fronts," Gomes said, two spreading "violently".

Dry thunderstorms were thought to have been the cause, according to the prime minister.

A number of villages were affected by the main fire and homes were evacuated. Some were sheltered in neighbouring areas.

Officials were not immediately able to comment on the extent of the damage. Spain dispatched two water-

bombing planes yesterday to aid the Portuguese fire service, Costa said.

**DIDN'T WANT TO DIE**  
Dozens of people who fled their homes were taken in by residents of the nearby municipality of Ansiao.

"There are people who arrived saying they didn't want to die in their homes, which were surrounded by flames," Ansiao resident Ricardo Tristao told reporters.

President Marcelo Rebelo went to the Leiria region to meet families of the victims, saying he was "sharing their pain in the name of all the Portuguese people".

Firefighters did "all they could" when faced with the blaze, he said.

Pope Francis began his Angelus prayer by invoking the tragedy.

"I express my closeness to the beloved people of Portugal following the devastating fire," Francis said. "Let's pray in silence".

Portugal was hit by a series of fires last year which devastated more than 100,000 hectares (1,000 square kilometres) of the mainland.

Fires on the tourist island of Madeira in August killed three people, while over the course of 2016 around 40 homes were destroyed and 5,400 hectares of land burned.

# Nato war game defends Baltic weak spot

REUTERS, Suwalki Gap

US and British troops have carried out the first large-scale Nato defensive drill on the border between Poland and Lithuania, rehearsing for a possible scenario in which Russia might try to sever the Baltic states from the rest of the Western alliance.

The frontier runs for 104 km (65 miles) through farmland, woods and low hills, in an area known as the Suwalki Gap. If seized by Russia, it would cut off Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Over two days, US helicopters and British aircraft took part in exercises that also involved troops from Poland, Lithuania and Croatia in a simulated defence of the potential flashpoint.

"The gap is vulnerable because of the geography. It's not inevitable that there's going to be an attack, of course, but ... if that was closed, then you have three allies that are north that are potentially isolated from the rest of the alliance", US Lieutenant General Ben Hodges told Reuters.

Russia denies any plans to invade the Baltics, and says it is Nato that is

threatening stability in Eastern Europe by building up its military presence there and staging such war games.

But Hodges, who commands US forces in Europe, said it was crucial for the alliance to show it was ready.

"We have to practice, we have to demonstrate that we can support allies in keeping (the Gap) open, in maintaining that connection," he said.

# Make it easy

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activities of the commission and various aspects of the report.

Golam Rahman said the Information Commission received more applications from information seekers in 2016 compared to previous years.

He also informed the president that the commission already selected a site for setting up its own building and started its construction process.

The chief information commissioner sought cooperation and suggestion of the president in carrying out the activities of the commission.

# Trump

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But Sekulow said that Trump was reacting to a Washington Post story that said special counsel Robert Mueller was examining whether Trump had tried to obstruct the probe by firing FBI director James Comey in May.

"The fact of the matter is the president has not been and is not under investigation," Sekulow said on CBS' "Face the Nation," one of four political shows where he appeared yesterday.

"There has been no notification from the special counsel's office that the president is under investigation," Sekulow said.

Mueller, the special counsel named by the Justice Department to probe the Russia matter, is investigating whether anyone associated with Trump or his campaign had any illegal dealings with Russian officials or others with ties to the Kremlin.

Mueller is also looking at whether, if any potential offenses were committed, Trump or others attempted to cover them up or obstruct the investigation into them, said one US official on Thursday who is familiar with the rough outlines of the probe and who spoke on condition of anonymity.

# Neighbour

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went out to play on Saturday afternoon and had been missing since then.

Hafizul's family and police found the body of Hafizul buried in the house of Dulal who had an enmity with Rajab over money.

Tajul Huda, officer-in-charge of Aminpur Police Station, quoting the arrestees said, "Dulal and his family members caught Hafizul when he was found alone near his house on Saturday afternoon. Hafizul was then beaten to death and buried in a room of the house."

Selim Mallik, son of Dulal, borrowed Tk 25,000 from Rajab a few months ago. When Rajab asked for the money a couple of days ago, Selim refused to pay up and they got locked in an altercation over the issue, said the OC, quoting the arrestees.

The victim's body was sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Selim, the other accused in the murder case, went into hiding after the incident.

Sharaban has called upon the Bangladesh embassy in Indonesia to manage an army helicopter that can operate in bad weather.

Both Sharaban and Rafah said the helicopter of the private tour operator would probably make a fresh attempt today to rescue the three if the weather favours.

The trio came down to the base camp safely after conquering the mountain on June 13.

But they got trapped there due to bad weather. Later Nandita fell sick and they faced starvation, Sharaban and Rafah had told The Daily Star.

On June 17, the first rescue mission by a helicopter was called off due to rough weather, Sharaban told The Daily Star quoting a text message sent by Musa.

Musa left Dhaka on May 30 for his new expedition 'Bangladesh-India Friendship' to scale the Carstensz Pyramid.

He along with the two Indian mountaineers -- Satyarup and Nandita -- began the expedition on June 1.