



The destruction after yesterday's landslide in Dolian Para of Bandarban. A teenager was killed and four other remain missing. The hills have been devastated by landslides since the onset of the monsoon this year.

PHOTO:  
SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## Fresh landslide

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Nandi, and Ching Mya Sing Marma, police said.

Three others who survived the incident with injuries were admitted to Bandarban Sadar Hospital.

Chong Part Mro who witnessed the incident said at least seven-eight people might be missing. "I saw a huge chunk of earth fell on 10-12 people when they were crossing the road."

The road was damaged at several points by last month's torrential rain and consequent landslides. People are often forced to get down from vehicles for the poor condition of the road.

Road communication between Bandarban town and Ruma upazila was snapped after yesterday's landslide.

Meanwhile, the rescue operation following the incident was hampered due to heavy rain and intermittent landslides in the area.

The OC said police suspected four-five people were still beneath the mud.

Earlier on June 13, landslides killed nine people in the district.

## Noab calls

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the government's initiative to incorporate provisions like section 57 in the proposed Digital Security Act and National Online Mass Media Policy, Noab urged the government not to take any step that goes against freedom of expression which is guaranteed by the constitution.

Noab also expressed concern over the attacks on journalists and filing of cases to harass them in different parts of the country and urged the government to take steps to stop these.

## Case against

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the UNO and his subsequent arrest. Many on social media had praised the UNO's idea of placing a fifth-grader's drawing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the invitation card.

In another development, Barisal Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Mohammad Ali Hossain yesterday informed the Supreme Court administration that he did not refuse Tariq bail on Wednesday.

He said his court was a bit late in granting the bail as Tariq had to wait for documents needed for his bail.

Ali told these to SC administration over the phone after the administration asked him to provide details of the incident, Sabbir Faiz, additional registrar of the SC's High Court Division, told The Daily Star.

Ali will send the case records to the SC administration today, Sabbir added.

On Saturday, six policemen of a Barisal court were closed to police lines in connection with negligence of duty over the arrest of Tariq on Wednesday.

Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) made the move following severe criticism that followed the arrest.

A probe committee led by an additional deputy inspector general of police has been investigating the incident, BMP Commissioner SM Ruhul Amin said.

"Negligence will be punished," he told reporters.

Tariq was sued for publishing a portrait of Bangabandhu, drawn by a child, on an invitation card.

## Sohel 'admits'

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that he was present at a meeting of Majlis-e-Sura members of the terror group where the café attack was planned, the sources said.

Though Sohel confessed to supplying improvised bombs to the attackers, investigators had earlier said that he was one of the suppliers of the arms and explosives used in the café attack that left 20 hostages, mostly foreigners, and two policemen dead.

"They had smuggled the arms and explosives from India and ferried those, hidden in fruit baskets, to the capital from Chapainawabganj and Jessore borders," Monirul Islam, chief of DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit, said last month.

Sources added that Sohel made no mention of firearms in his statement.

Earlier in the day, Humayun Kabir, an inspector of CITC, and also the investigation officer of the case, produced the accused at the chamber of the metropolitan magistrate for recording of the confessional statement.

Sohel, known as an explosive expert, was remanded for 13 days in two phases. He was arrested in the bordering Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj on July 8.

Three other suspected militants and a former university teacher were also arrested in connection with the Holey Artisan siege.

The three suspected militants had given confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

On July 1 last year, five armed militants stormed the upscale eatery in Gulshan diplomatic zone and held diners hostage at gunpoint.

Three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian were murdered by the gunmen. Two police officials were also

## Male colleagues

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Farida Parvin, vice-chairperson of Bhurungamari upazila parishad in Kurigram, said she heads a number of committees and forums working to ensure women's rights, but since she is a woman, her decisions were not "evaluated accordingly" while policies were made.

"I want to compete with my other colleagues to provide the best services," she added.

Tuhin Aktar, vice chairperson of Netrakona Sadar upazila parishad, explained how her daily activities were being hampered due to the absence of a permanent mode of transport.

"I need to move here and there to deal with issues like stopping child marriage and attending village arbitrations in remote areas," she said.

Speaking as a special guest, Uma Chowdhury, mayor of Natore Sadar municipality, said women are less involved in corruption than men. Female public representatives have to prove their capability through work and dedication, she said, adding that female ward councillors elected at reserved seats in her municipality receive due facilities.

Ajay Dasgupta, deputy editor of the Bangla daily Samakal, said the mass media learned a lot from women on how to write about gender issues and stories of violent incidents against them.

Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam said political will and sharing of power can help empower women. Changing society's mindset is required for this, she said.

killed and 29 others injured when law enforcers in groups attempted to close in on the place.

The standoff ended through a commando operation in which the five militants and a café chef were killed. Another Artisan staff died in police custody later.

Global terror outfit Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack through its Amaq news agency, according to the US-based SITE Intelligence Group.

The government all along said that the attack was carried out by "Neo JMB", an offshoot of banned organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Sohel, who played a key role in organising the JMB in Bangladesh and India's West Bengal, was most wanted in both the countries.

He is one of the prime accused in the 2014 Burdwan blast case. The West Bengal police put Rs 10 lakh bounty on his head.

## ACC moves

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The home ministry was supposed to get about Tk 2,052 crore the foreign ministry collected for Machine Readable Passport (MRP) between 2010 and 2016. During the time, Bangladesh missions abroad delivered nearly 30 lakh MRPs.

It was also to get Tk 148 crore the foreign ministry received from Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fees between 2012 and 2016.

"The committee has been asked to submit the probe report within 30 working days," said the ACC source.

In another development, the commission yesterday decided to file a case against former director (additional) Prof Nizamudding Faruk of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and its administrative officer Abdul Jalil Mia for irregularities in the recruitment of office assistants.

In the enquiry, the anti-graft body found that a circular was issued on February 9, 2015, with the names of 20 office assistants who had been appointed.

But on the same day, another circular was issued, in which two names were replaced.

Nizamuddin and Jalil were signatories of both the circulars.

It appears that the two misused their power and were involved in irregularities in recruitment, said an ACC source.

## Century-old

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and koro trees, 1,850 electric poles and 88 telephone poles on both sides of that highway.

The offices concerned have been sent letters with instructions to remove the poles.

The Road Transport and Highways Division now intends to start the renovation work by keeping the trees. Tender for the work is likely to be floated within this month.

Soljar Rahman, associate professor of geography and environmental science at Government MM College, Jessore, said there is a canopy of green leaves spreading over a 9.12-lakh-square-foot stretch of the highway.

Such green layers protect humans and other animals from the ultraviolet ray of the sun, he added.

Ali Nurayen, sub-divisional engineer of Jessore RHD, expressed the hope of starting the renovation work as per the new directive.

## Russians march against internet crackdown

AFP, Moscow

Around 1,000 people marched through central Moscow yesterday to protest against the government's harsh legislative controls on the internet.

Demonstrators at the rally, which was authorised by city authorities, shouted slogans including "No to censorship, no to dictatorship!" and "Down with the police state!"

Some adapted a popular slogan from opposition rallies against President Vladimir Putin's rule, shouting "Russia without Putin and censorship!"

Police said that around 800 people attended the protest, which was organised by Parnas opposition party, headed by former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov. An AFP journalist estimated the turnout at 1,000 to 1,500.

OVD Info website, which monitors detentions of political activists, said three had been detained, one for giving out leaflets promoting opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Pavel Rassudov, 34, the former head of the Pirate Party campaign group, said at the march that "restrictions on the internet began in 2011," as the opposition to Putin held mass rallies in Moscow.

"The authorities realised the Internet was a tool for mobilisation, that it brings people out onto the streets," Rassudov said.

Another marcher, Lyudmila Toporova, 56, said she came to the rally because "Freedom is the most important thing in life. That's why I'm here."

## Driving more

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"This research suggests it is bad for your brain, too, perhaps because your mind is less active in those hours."

The researchers analysed the lifestyles of more than 500,000 Britons aged between 37 and 73 over five years, during which they took intelligence and memory tests.

The 93,000 people who drove more than two to three hours a day typically had lower brainpower at the start of the study, which kept on declining throughout, at a faster rate than those who did little or no driving.

A similar result was also found for those watching TV for more than three hours a day, who also had lower average brainpower at the start of the study which fell faster over the next five years.

"Cognitive decline is measurable over five years because it can happen fast in middle-aged and older people. This is associated with lifestyle factors such as smoking and bad diet — and now with time spent driving," Bakrania told the paper.

However, Bakrania's results suggested using a computer to work or play games increased brain function.

"Cognitive skills were boosted in people who used computers up to two to three hours a day," he said. "When watching TV, your brain is less active but using a computer is stimulating."

While other studies suggest cognitive decline is linked to physical inactivity, Bakrania suggested other factors may play a role.

He said: "Driving causes stress and fatigue, with studies showing the links between them and cognitive decline."

# Marawi fighting drags on

## Philippines' security strategy to tackle militants unclear as martial law extended

REUTERS, Manila

Two months after Islamist militants launched an assault on one of the biggest southern cities in the Philippines, the fighting is dragging on, and President Rodrigo Duterte says he is prepared to wait for a year for it to end.

The defence top brass admits it underestimated its enemy and is struggling to finish off the highly organised, pro-Islamic State fighters who swept through Marawi City on May 23 and have held parts of it despite sustained ground attacks by hundreds of soldiers and daily pummelling by planes and artillery.

On Saturday, lawmakers approved Duterte's request to extend martial law to the end of the year on the island of Mindanao, granting greater powers to security forces to go after extremists with a reach that goes far beyond Marawi.

But it remains unclear how exactly Duterte plans to tackle extremism after troops retake Marawi, where about 70 militants remain holed up in the debris of what was once a flourishing commercial district, along with many civilian hostages.

More than 500 people have been killed, including 45 civilians and 105 government troops. After missing several self-imposed deadlines to re-take the city, the military says its options are limited because of the hostages.

Duterte has said he had asked to military to avoid more civilian casualties.

"I told them 'do not attack'. What's important is we do not want to kill people," he said on Friday. "If we have to wait there for one year, let us wait for one year."

The southern Philippines has been marred for decades by insurgency and banditry. But the intensity of the battle in Marawi and the presence of foreign fighters fighting alongside local militants has raised concerns that the region may be becoming a Southeast Asian hub for Islamic State as it loses ground in Iraq and Syria.

Militants from neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia, both Muslim majority nations, are fighting in Marawi.

About 5 million Muslims live in the Catholic-majority Philippines, mostly on Mindanao. Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana indicated on Saturday that after Marawi, the government would strengthen surveillance in the region, widening the net to detect rebel training camps and movements of militants.

"We need communications equipment, high-tech communications equipment that we can use to monitor cellphones of the enemies. We also need drones," he told Congress.

Security experts say the government needs a strategic overhaul after failing to act on warnings long ago that radical ideology was taking hold in Mindanao, and luring foreign fighters unable to join Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

# Dhaka can follow

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Beijing unveiled plans to develop the area to the east of Huangpu into a "Special Economic Zone" and three years later "Pudong New Area" was officially founded. The central government of China and the State Council played a very important role in this transformation.

After 24 years of development, the 1,210 square kilometer area of Pudong has become the engine of economic and social development of Shanghai. Along with a fast-changing skyline, an outward-looking and modern urban district with multiple functions has come into being. Pudong has won honorary titles such as "National Model District".

In a short 24 years, dramatic changes have taken place in Pudong, transforming from farmlands to high buildings and from out-of-the-way villages to prosperous urban areas. Pudong became the "Pearl of the Orient", acclaimed as the "epitome of Shanghai's modernisation" and the "symbol of China's reform and opening-up".

With the fast economic growth of Pudong, it has significantly improved the ecological environment, winning the titles of "National Landscape District", "National Sanitary District", "National Environmental-Friendly Model District" and "China Human Habitation Environment Award".

Zhu said all that they have done so far to transform Pudong into a modern city was possible due to visionary thinking, well thought-out plans, effective management and coordinated efforts.

"A city is like a human body. If you don't take care of it, she will get sick," he said.

"In 1992, Pudong was an underdeveloped area. In order to develop the area, we welcomed foreign investment and interest there," Zhu said.

About the planning of Pudong, he

said the authority invited five designers to submit their ideas to transform Pudong into a modern city.

"We didn't accept or reject any submission. We prepared a fresh design taking all the good points from all five."

Zhu said all of their development works were aimed at how people will be benefited.

He said ensuring education, job creation, health service, traffic and drainage management and affordable housing are some major challenges to ensure livability in urban areas.

"If you can meet those challenges, you will get success," he said adding, "To achieve those things, coordination among different agencies is extremely important."

Before the development of Pudong, Shanghai suffered from traffic congestion. Zhu said they had massive traffic congestion in Shanghai as well as other different parts of China. But the authorities succeeded in controlling congestion through proper planning and strict implementation.

Pointing to some significant measures they have applied in Pudong and also in other parts of China, Zhu said people can rent bicycles from bicycle stands located at different suitable points of Pudong to travel short distance ranging from five to six kilometres.

"This measure is eco-friendly and reduces the pressure on motor vehicles."

Recalling his memories, Zhu said when he was young, the situation in many of China's cities some 40 to 50 years ago was almost like the one in Dhaka now.

"That's why I am confident that Dhaka can be transformed into a modern city through taking proper planning."

## Hajj flights

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They took all measures for smooth operation of the flights. If any private hajj operator failed to complete the procedures and any of their pilgrims missed a flight, the tour agent concerned would be punished, the ministers said.

Hajji, the largest religious congregation of the Muslims, and Eid-ul-Azha are likely to be held in early September.

A government official at Ashkona Hajj Camp in the capital said over 3,500 pilgrims under government management already received their visas from the Saudi embassy in Dhaka. "We hope there will be no mismanagement in this year's hajj," the official said wishing anonymity.

Ibrahim Bahar, president of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that over 6,500 pilgrims under private management also got their visas.

He added that almost all the private hajj agencies completed accommodation reservation for their pilgrims, and that they deposited required amount in bank accounts authorised by the Saudi authorities.

"The agencies are now busy verifying the confirmation of visas and air tickets for the pilgrims," he said.

Some 1,27,198 pilgrims from Bangladesh will perform the annual ritual this year.