



A few of the people who took shelter at Television Bhaban in Rangamati town yesterday.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

# Downpour increases landslide risks in Rangamati

Many people moved to shelters as 33 hills in the district town earmarked risky

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Residents of many areas in Rangamati are living in fear after several incidents of landslide took place along Rangamati-Khagrachhari and Bandarban link roads amid ongoing monsoon downpour.

Kayching Nuo Marma, senior meteorological research officer at Rangamati meteorological office, said Rangamati has been witnessing heavy rainfalls over the last several days.

On July 6, about 68 millimetres (mm) of rainfall was recorded in the area, while 170 mm on July 7 and 108 mm was recorded on July 8, he said adding, "Rain will continue for two or three days. Heavy rainfall [however] is dissipating."

While visiting Notun Para, Shimultoli and Rupnagar areas in Rangamati municipality, where many houses were damaged in landslides last year, this correspondent yesterday found a number of families that were still living in their houses ignoring the risk, while only a few others have evacuated to nearby shelters.

The district administration has identified that 600 families living on or alongside 33 hilltops run the risk of falling victims to landslides and 110 such families have already shifted to shelters nearby, said officials at the administration.

Shimultoli resident Fatema Akhter said her family was affected by a landslide last year and this time they took shelter at Television Bhaban. "We couldn't sleep

properly when it started to rain heavily. We didn't want to lose any life as we did last year."

AKM Mamunur Rashid, deputy commissioner of Rangamati, said they earmarked 33 hills in Rangamati town as risky.

People have already been made aware of the hazards during heavy rainfall and many families are evacuating, he also said hoping that there will not be any death in the town from landslide this year.

On June 13, 2017, as many as 120 people perished in landslides across Rangamati district where 1,200 houses were completely destroyed and 9,500 houses damaged partially, affecting around 18,000 families.

Road communications between Rangamati and other districts remained suspended for nearly 10 days, resulting in food and fuel shortage in a vast area of the district. The landslides also caused power outage for two days in the area.

Out of the damaged roads, the repair work of Rangamati-Chattogram and Rangamati-Khagrachhari link roads -- despite spending Tk 14 crore on the repairs -- still remain incomplete. The roads sustained damage in at least 60 places, with 20 of those being major damage.

Muhammad Abu Musa, sub-assistant engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Rangamati, said they were working relentlessly to keep the roads usable for vehicles.

## MURDER AFTER GANG RAPE

# Four get life term in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court on Monday sentenced four people, including victim's brother-in-law, to life term imprisonment in connection with a case filed for murdering a woman after gang rape in Nabiganj upazila in 2002.

Judge Halim Ullah Choudhury of Habiganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal handed down the verdict in presence of the convicts.

The judge also slapped a fine of Tk 1 lakh to each of the convicts.

The convicts are Raju Mia, Abdul Mannaf, Babul Mia and Saidul Islam. They all hail from different areas of Nabiganj upazila.

The court also acquitted two other accused in the case as charges brought against them were not be proven, court Inspector Al Amin said.

According to the prosecution, on August 20 in 2002, the convicts picked up Fateha Begum, 25, from Haripur village and gang raped her.

The criminals later killed the victim and dumped her body in the nearby Barak river.

On August 26, victim's elder sister Rowshan Ara filed a case with Nabiganj Police Station accusing six people, including her husband Saidul Islam.

After investigation, Sub Inspector Kamal Hossain of Nabiganj Police Station pressed charge sheet against the six on June 19, 2003, Public Prosecutor Advocate Abul Hashem Mollah said.

## Fisheries officer detained while taking bribe

ACC officials catch him red-handed during a surprise move

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday caught a fisheries officer in the act of taking bribe in Parbatipur upazila.

Ahsanul Kabir Polash, assistant director (AD) of ACC in Dinajpur, said Rezaul Karim Sarkar, 55, senior fisheries officer of Parbatipur upazila, was caught while he was receiving Tk 20,000 bribe from contractor Sabuj Islam.

When Sabuj went to Parbatipur fisheries office at noon to collect a payment of Tk 32 lakh against a bill, Rezaul demanded Tk 5 lakh bribe from him in exchange for releasing the payment, the AD of the ACC said.

But since Sabuj did not have the amount of money with him, he made a partial payment of Tk 20,000 to Rezaul, the ACC official said, adding that the team of ACC at the time entered the room in a surprise move and caught Rezaul red-handed.

ACC Deputy Director Abu Hena Ashiqur Rahman said they would take necessary legal action against the fisheries officer.

## Man killed by nephews

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An elderly man was hacked to death allegedly by his nephews in Panaullar Char area of Kishoreganj's Bhairab upazila on Monday.

The deceased is Dulal Mia, 60, son of Abdul Jobber Mia of the area.

Quoting the victim's family members, Bhairab Police Station OC Md Muklesur Rahman said there was a longstanding land dispute between Dulal and his nephews Akter Mia and Basir.

Akter and Basir attacked Dulal with a sharp weapon on Monday evening.

Critically injured Dulal later died on way to Bajitpur Jahurul Islam Medical College Hospital in Kishoreganj.

The body was sent to Kishoreganj General Hospital for autopsy, said the OC.

## Robbers kill house owner

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Armed robbers looted gold ornaments and cash from a house after killing its owner at Dakkhin Rajapur area in Rajapur upazila on Monday night.

The deceased, Abdul Haque, 55, was son of late Ali Azim of the area, Officer in Charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station Jahid Hossain said.

"A group of eight to ten robbers, wearing masks, entered our house by breaking open the door and started looting valuables and cash. As my husband tried to resist, the robbers tied him with a rope and beat him dead," deceased's wife Lili Begum said.

Then they fled the house with the looted valuables, he added.

Neighbours said they did not hear any sound or cry due to heavy rain during the robbery.

Police sent the body to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital for autopsy, the OC said.

"We are not sure whether the murder took place due to torture as we did not find any marks of torture on the deceased's body," Assistant Superintendent of Police (Rajapur Circle) Shakhawat Hossain said, adding that the reason of the death will be clear after autopsy.



This ornate flying snake, caught from the residence of the mayor of Sreemangal municipality of Moulvibazar on Friday, was released to Lawachhara reserve forest yesterday. The apparently harmless snake's Bangla name kalmagani (deadly snake) is a misnomer, said Md Kamrul Hassan, professor of zoology at Jahangirnagar University.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

# Schoolgirl takes own life

Boyfriend blamed for instigating the act by sharing her nude photos on social media

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A ninth grader of the town has killed herself after her boyfriend allegedly posted her nude pictures on social media.

The victim's father Hasanul Mashrek alleged that police repeatedly denied to record a case against accused Abir Hasan, 18, an HSC examinee of the town, under the Digital Security Act as his (Abir) father is an NSI (National Security Intelligence) official while his parental uncle is a high police official working in Chittagong.

Maisa Famida Semonti, 14, a student of Bogura YMCA Public School and College, took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room in the town on June 18, a day after her boyfriend Abir posted her nude photos on his Instagram, said her father.

Maisa's family members and classmates wanted to form a human chain in front of the school around 12:00noon yesterday, demanding a neutral investigation into the incident, but police barred the students from joining the programme, said the father.

However, the family members later formed the human chain without the presence of Maisa's classmates.

Refuted the allegation of barring the students from joining the human chain, SM Bodiuazzaman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station, said "We even did not know about where they wanted to organise the programme."

Accused Abir said, "I had a relationship with Maisa. She had an



Family members of Maisa Famida Semonti, who died by suicide after her nude photos went viral, form a human chain beside her school in Bogura town yesterday, demanding a neutral investigation into the incident.

PHOTO: STAR

affair with Shahariar Antor before but they broke up in December last year."

"I did not share any nude photos of Maisa on social media. Antor might have done it," said Abir.

Antor, a student of Bogura Government Azizul Haque College, went into hiding since Maisa died by suicide, said her father.

The OC said "Police filed an unnatural death case on the day of the incident. Maisa's father came to me on June 30, but he could not provide his daughter's smartphone, Facebook ID and evidence of the nude photos."

"He came to the police station again on July 4 and handed over Maisa's smartphone to me. Later, I took his complaint," said the

police official.

Maisa's smartphone, SIM and SD cards and other pieces of evidence were sent to Cybercrime Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and the investigation has already been started, he said.

"If we find any clue of someone's involvement in sharing the nude photos on social media, a murder case will be recorded for instigating the suicide," he said.

Contacted, accused Abir's father said his son had love affair with Maisa.

"We did not influence Bogura police in this case. I also want a neutral investigation into the incident. If my son is found guilty, I will hand over him to police," he said.



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