

Landslides kill nine as Bangladesh lashed by rain

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Low-lying Bangladesh is one of the country's hardest hit by climate change, with is changing weather patterns.

Torrential rains in Bangladesh have triggered landslides burying alive at least nine people and forcing thousands to flee to higher ground, police

and government officials in the low-lying nation said Wednesday.

Schools have been turned into shelters for those abandoning their homes to rising river waters, while more than a million people have been stranded in northern areas.

Bangladesh, a nation of around 170 million people, is among the countries most vulnerable to disasters and climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

The annual monsoon rains cause widespread destruction every year, but experts say [climate change](#) is shifting [weather patterns](#) and increasing the number of extreme weather events.

"At least 700,000 people have been stranded by [flash floods](#) and heavy rains in Sylhet district, and another 500,000 people in neighboring Sunamganj district," Abu Ahmed Siddique, commissioner of Bangladesh's northeastern Sylhet district, told AFP.

Those killed in landslides were in the southeastern Cox's Bazar district.

Eight were Rohingya refugees from neighboring Myanmar, and the other was from Bangladesh, said Amir Jafar, a police official in command of security in the camps.

'Buried under the mud'

"They were sleeping in their shelters when heavy rains overnight triggered the landslides in five spots of the camps," Jafar told AFP.

"They were buried under the mud."

Bangladesh



Map of Bangladesh.

He said hundreds of refugees had been moved from areas deemed at risk.

"The rain is still going on," he said.

About one million Rohingya live in makeshift shelters of bamboo and tarpaulins in dozens of scattered camps cut out of cleared forest land on the slopes of small hills, where landslides are a regular threat.

In Sylhet, lashing rain and rivers swollen by flooding upstream in India also swamped heavily populated areas.

"More than 17,000 people have been taken to shelters only in Sylhet [district](#)," senior local government official Sheikh Russel Hasan said, warning rivers were still rising.

Much of Bangladesh is made up of deltas as the Himalayan rivers of the Ganges and Brahmaputra slowly wind towards the sea.

Floods in 2022 in Sylhet were some of the worst on record, leaving millions stranded and around a hundred killed.

Towhidul Islam, chief administrative officer of Gowainghat, part of Sylhet, said the river had risen two centimeters (0.7 inches) in the first three hours after dawn.

"If the rain and water level continues to increase, the situation will get worse, like 2022", Islam told AFP.

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