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NATURAL DISASTER

GIANT LANDSLIDE SERIOUSLY DAMAGES VILLAGE IN RUDAKI DISTRICT
DUSHANBE, March 24, Asia-Plus /*Roza Shaposhnik*/ - A very difficult situation has been reported from the Village of Qiblai in Rudaki District that was hit by a giant landslide late Friday, at about 11:00 p.m. The village is in mountain area, some 5-6 kilometers to the northeast of Dushanbe. The landslide carrying tons of mud with it was moving for two days. Fortunately no injured was reported because people in the village stayed overnight outdoors.

According to some sources, as of today afternoon more than 30 of the villager's 350 houses have been destroyed by the landslide. Giant cracks have appeared in some areas of the village. Several rescue teams of the Ministry of Emergency Situation (MES) have been sent to the site of the slide.

On March 19, the emergency services evacuated more than 3,000 inhabitants of the Village of Qiblai to safe places. Many of them are currently staying with their relatives. The MES source says the local authorities will assign plots to them to build new houses. On March 19, Emergency Minister, Mirzo Ziyoyev, was in the village and closely monitoring the situation.

According to information from the MES, a damage caused by the landslide to the villages has amounted to some one million Somonis.

KULOB AUTHORITIES TO BUILD GOING-ROUND ROAD TO DUSHANBE

KULOB, March 24, Asia-Plus /*Turko Dikayev*/ -- According to preliminary estimates, the construction of going-round road from Kulob to Dushanbe will come to 380,000 Somonis.

Deputy Kulob Mayor, Pirmad Zaripov, told the Asia-Plus' *Turko Dikayev* in Kulob this today morning.

As it had been reported earlier, a landslide destroyed some 100 meters of the main highway from Kulob to Dushanbe near the Village of Beshtigirmon on March 17. The landslide carrying tons of slurry with it also damaged 70 hectares of arable lands (21 hectares of these lands were sown with cereals) in the farming unit "Khatlon" in Kulob District. Traffic has been suspended

According to Mr. Zaripov, the Kulob sub-division of the Tajik Ministry of Transport - state company "Bunyodi Roh" - is building the new going-round road. For these purposes, the Ministry of emergency Situations (MES) has provided 5 tons of diesel and four vehicles. The construction of the road will take not less than 20 days.

Zaripov says the landslide has completely destroyed a water supply system of Beshtigirmon.