

10 killed in landslide in Mizoram



Agency
Aizawl, Jun 5

Ten people, including six women, were killed and one person was injured when a building was swept away by a landslide triggered by heavy rains in Lunglawn area of south Mizoram's Lunglei

town, police said today.

The landslide hit the two-storied semi-pucca building last night killing seven members of a family living in the ground floor and three people belonging to another family residing in the first floor, they said. Four persons were rescued

from the building, police said, adding that one of them suffered injuries. Police said that 14 people were killed had been overrun by fast-moving burning material discharged by the volcano Sunday. Communities located on its southern slope were the worst hit. Several of the dead were children. An AFP journalist saw at least three bodies buried in the rubble of the village of San Miguel Los Lotes, where rescue workers, soldiers and police were desperately searching for survivors. Dead dogs, chickens and ducks also lay among the mud and ash, much of it still smoking. "I do not want to leave, but go

Curfew lifted in some parts of Meghalaya

AIR
Shillong, June 5,

Curfew imposed across Shillong was lifted in some parts of the city this morning.

East Khasi Hills District Magistrate PS Dkhar said, indefinite curfew, however, continues in sensitive areas.

The DM said, night curfew in entire Shillong city will be in force from 4 pm today to 5 am tomorrow.

Violence broke out last Thursday after two groups of people clashed after a bus handyman was allegedly beaten up by some residents. Army carried out a flag march throughout the city yesterday.

People today forget the importance of nature while trying to earn money -

L. Mahendra

IT News

Thoubal, June 5:

Degrading environment and the rise of global warming which is major concern for human civilisation was highlighted today by the Chairman of Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM)

Lamabam Mhendra. Speaking on the World Environment Day function organised by the Reformist Student's Front (RSF) and Kairembikhok Student's Union and Club (KSUC) at Kairembikhok Community hall, Mahendra said that the degrading environment is

mainly because people today have forgotten that mother nature gives us everything and we keep on destructing it for mere monetary profit for their own purpose. "We earn money by chopping a wood but the benefit provided by the wood is never thought of by any of us", Mahendra added.

Singngat Battalion Organised Mass Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

IT News
Imphal, June 5,

Singngat Battalion Assam Rifles organised mass plantation drive on World Environment Day on 05 June 2018 at various locations of Singngat

Sub-Division under its area of responsibility. Officers and troops of the Battalion in collaboration with school authorities and volunteers planted approximately 300 saplings of different varieties. Saplings for plantation

were also distributed to various schools under its area of responsibility. The Joint Effort of the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Forest Department was assisted by the local populace to make the event successful.

National & International News

Toll rises in Guatemala Volcano to 65 as more bodies recovered

Agency
Guatemala, June 5

Rescue workers pulled more bodies Monday from under the dust and rubble left by an explosive eruption of Guatemala's Fuego volcano, bringing the death toll to at least 65.

Disaster Relief Agency spokesman David de Leon told a briefing that after hours of searching for survivors, the number of dead had hit at least 65.

In addition, there are 46 people injured, most of them seriously, more than 1.7 million being hit by the disaster, including 3,271 ordered evacuated and 1,787 in shelters in the departments of Escuintla, Sacatepequez and Chimaltenango since Sunday's

eruption.

The 3,763-meter (12,346-foot) volcano erupted early Sunday, spewing out towering plumes of ash and a hail of fiery rock fragments with scalding mud. Authorities had warned the death toll could rise after searches resumed for survivors in communities on the mountain's southern flank. After an initial toll of 25 dead, it was revised upwards within hours as bodies were recovered from villages razed by the tumbling mud.

"There are missing persons, but we do not know how many," said Sergio Cabanas of Guatemala's disaster management agency. A roll call of communities on the slopes of the volcano was under way. The speed and ferocity of the

eruption took mountain communities by surprise, with many of the dead found in or around their homes.

Cabanas said those who were killed had been overrun by fast-moving burning material discharged by the volcano Sunday. Communities located on its southern slope were the worst hit. Several of the dead were children.

An AFP journalist saw at least three bodies buried in the rubble of the village of San Miguel Los Lotes, where rescue workers, soldiers and police were desperately searching for survivors.

Dead dogs, chickens and ducks also lay among the mud and ash, much of it still smoking. "I do not want to leave, but go

back, and there is nothing I can do to save my family," a weeping Eufemia Garcia, 48, told AFP. She was searching for her three children, her mother, nephews and siblings.

Garcia, from Los Lotes, said she escaped with the help of her husband.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was deeply saddened by the "tragic loss of life and the significant damage caused by the eruption," and said the UN was ready to assist national rescue and relief efforts.

National mourning President Jimmy Morales, who has declared three days of national mourning, visited the disaster zone.

"The volcano has erupted before, but never like this," said

Gustavo Larius, a 27-year-old bricklayer searching the streets of his village for missing family and friends, a handkerchief pressed over his mouth and nose.

The eruption sent ash billowing over the surrounding area, turning plants and trees gray and blanketing streets, cars and people.

Farmers covered in ash fled for their lives as civil defense workers tried to relocate them to shelters.

"This time we were saved; in another (eruption) no," said Efraim Gonzalez, 52, sitting on the floor of a shelter in the city of Escuintla, where he arrived with his wife and one-year-old daughter. Gonzalez was overwhelmed with despair, as two more of

his children, aged 10 and four, are missing. They were trapped in their home, which was flooded with hot mud that descended from the volcano. Dense ash blasted out by the volcano shut down Guatemala City's international airport, civil aviation officials said.

The eruption ended after 16.5 hours, but "there is a likelihood that it will reactivate" warned the Institute of Volcanology.

Surprising speed

The speed of the eruption took locals by surprise, and could be explained by it producing pyroclastic flows, sudden emissions of gas and rock fragments, rather than lava, said volcanologist David Rothery of Britain's Open University. "A lava flow rarely travels fast enough to engulf

people," he said. "The videos and still images I've seen suggest instead one or more pyroclastic flows. This is when a violently erupted mass of rock fragments and hot gas finds itself too dense to rise as an ash column and instead cascades down the volcano's slopes.

"Pyroclastic flows or surges can move at over 100 kilometers (62 miles) per hour, and may be hot enough to glow like molten lava. They can travel further, as well as much faster, than lava flows," said Rothery.

Fuego has been erupting since 2002, and was continuously active in 2017. There were explosions and ash plumes and a volcanic mudflow last month.

Govt working to free housing sector from middlemen & corruption; committed to provide home to every family by 2022

AIR
New Delhi, June 5,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said, his government has been working to free the housing sector from middlemen, corruption and ensuring that the beneficiaries get their own home without hassles. The Prime Minister was interacting with beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - PMAY (Rural) through the Narendra Modi

app. Mr Modi said, the NDA Government is giving great importance to the housing sector and is committed to ensure that every Indian family has a home by 2022, when India marks 75 years of Independence. He said, the housing sector is being invigorated with latest technology which is enabling faster construction of affordable houses for the poor in towns and villages. The Prime Minister said, the

focus is to ensure more women, divyang, people from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities get access to housing. He said, the Awas Yojana is not merely about brick and mortar, it is about a better quality of life and realisation of dreams. Mr Modi said, due to PMAY, there are employment opportunities being created for people and at the same time, government is working on skill development to enable faster and better

quality construction of houses.

The Prime Minister said, interacting with beneficiaries of various government schemes is wonderful as one gets to know various aspects of the scheme including some of the areas where government can improve. Earlier, Mr Modi had interacted with the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana through the NaMo App.

Agency
New Delhi, Jun 5

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram today appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case.

The senior Congress leader arrived at the agency's headquarters office here at about 10:58 AM and was accompanied by a lawyer. The agency had issued a fresh summons to him yesterday to appear before the investigating officer of the case.

The agency is expected to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Chidambaram's role has come under the scanner in the Rs 3,500 crore Aircel-Maxis deal in which the ED has already questioned his son, Karti. The former finance minister, also the ex-home minister, had last week approached the court of Special Judge O P Saini seeking relief from arrest by the ED in this case.

The same court today directed ED not to take any coercive action or arrest him till July 10 in connection with this case. The ED had first asked him

Chidambaram appears before ED in Aircel-Maxis PMLA case

to appear before it on May 30 and on the same day Chidambaram knocked on the court's door.

The court, in its order on May 30, had noted that Chidambaram has undertaken to comply with the summons issued by the ED while saying he apprehended his arrest by the agency.

The Aircel-Maxis cases pertain to grant of Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance to firm M/S Global Communication Holding Services Ltd in 2006 for investment in Aircel.

The Supreme Court had on March 12 directed investigating agencies—the CBI and the ED—to

complete their probe into the 2G spectrum allocation cases, including the Aircel Maxis alleged money laundering case, in six months.

The agency had said FIPB approval in the Aircel-Maxis FDI case was granted in March 2006 by Chidambaram even though he was competent to accord approval on project proposals only up to Rs 600 crore and beyond that it required the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

The ED is investigating "the circumstances of the FIPB approval granted (in 2006) by the then finance minister."

"In the instant case, the approval for FDI of 800 million USD (over Rs 3,500 crore) was sought. Hence, the CCEA was competent to grant the approval."

"However, the approval was not obtained from the CCEA," the ED had alleged.

The agency said its probe revealed that the case of the said FDI was "wrongly projected as an investment of Rs 180 crore so that it need not be sent to the CCEA to avoid a detailed scrutiny."

The ED is probing the PMLA deal under the Aircel-Maxis after taking cognisance of a 2011 CBI FIR in the case.

The senior Chidambaram had earlier described the ED action in this case as a "crazy mixture of falsehoods and conjectures" and said that the charge sheet filed by probe agencies had been rejected by the court.

However, the agencies have maintained that the FIR in the case has not been quashed. In September last year, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 1.16 crore of Karti and a firm allegedly linked to him in connection with this case.

NDA govt committed to ensure a home for every Indian by 2022: PM Modi

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