



TRAGEDY IN HILLS

DEATH TOLL 143

RANGAMATI	CHITTAGONG	BANDARBAN	COX'S BAZAR	KHAGRACHHARI
105	26	9	2	1



Firemen and locals recover the body of a woman killed inside her home in Jubo Unnayan area of Rangamati town yesterday. The mudslide on Monday night had buried the entire ground floor of the two-storey house. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

It was written on the wall

Increasing settlements, destruction of forest over the years made hills vulnerable to landslide

PINAKI ROY

It was just a matter of time before a tragedy of this scale befell the country's hill region. The way people felled trees, cleared forest for commercial plantation and cultivation, and built houses on hill slopes in the Chittagong region, something disastrous was bound to happen, say experts.

And eventually, horror struck the hills on Monday. Landslides resulting mainly from torrential rain claimed the lives of 143 people in Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar over the last two days.

It was nothing but a manmade disaster, experts noted. In recent times, incidents of landslide after heavy downpour have become quite common in the hill region where thousands of people live in grave danger.

Experts pointed out that the government policy and actions regarding the CHT caused a rise in population in the region over the last few decades, leading to environmental degradation.

During the 1947 partition of India, Bangalees accounted for only 2.5

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Hills howl in grief, pain



An anguished Suresh touches the ambulance taking away his sister's body.

STAR REPORT

When the ambulance started its engine, no one could hold him back.

An inconsolable Suresh Chakma first started walking along the fire service vehicle, pressing his hands against the windshield. When the vehicle picked up speed, he began to run, still touching the windshield.

In it lay two of his sisters and their three children – all dead.

Suresh, aged about 40, survived the disaster as he lives away from the hill

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Can Tigers halt India's juggernaut?

Pakistan thump England

AL-AMIN from Birmingham

When Bangladesh take on India in the second semifinal at Edgbaston today they will want to continue their dream run in the ICC Champions Trophy.

The Tigers are already in a territory they have never been before in an ICC flagship event and a victory against Virat Kohli's India will not only be treated as the biggest sporting moment but one of the few glorious achievements for a thriving nation.

The whole country, which is still reeling from the shock of landslides in the hilly districts that claimed 138 lives, will

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