

Chased

FROM PAGE 12

Fakhrudin Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Station, said the two jumped into the river when they were chased during the clash in Ispahani Ghat area.

Later, their bodies were found floating in the river, the OC added.

Locals said after they jumped into the river, no one paid attention to them until their family members started searching for them at night.

Their bodies were recovered from the river after midnight.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsies.

The OC said six accused were held yesterday morning.

Mihad's father Kazim Uddin filed a case against 13 people, including the six, with names and eight unnamed others.

The six were produced before a Narayanganj court, seeking a 10-day remand for each of them. But the court placed them on a three-day remand, said Mohammad Asaduzzaman, court inspector.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

Acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam says today that the government would soon adopt a master plan for flood control which would take a number of years to be implemented. During the interim period before the completion of the flood control project stress would have been given on the production of winter crops, he adds.

PLAN TO INTRODUCE ELECTRIC TRAIN ON DHAKA-CTG LINE

A British firm has been commissioned to study and submit a feasibility report about introducing electric trains on the Dhaka-Chittagong line. Disclosing this to newsmen, Communication Minister Mansur Ali says that the firm would study whether the excess energy of the Kaptai Project could be profitably used for the purpose.

SOURCES: August 13, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Condition

FROM PAGE 12

in a critical condition, according to the statement.

It was Pranab who had disclosed on Monday that he tested positive for coronavirus while on a visit to hospital for a separate procedure. He was India's president between 2012 and 2017.

Soon after the news of his hospitalisation, wishes poured in from various quarters for his early recovery and a number of leaders sent their wishes on Twitter.

India's President Ram Nath Kovind spoke to Pranab's daughter Sharmistha Mukherjee and enquired about his health on Monday evening.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu also spoke to Sharmistha Mukherjee to enquire about his well-being. Naidu wished for his speedy recovery and good health.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the R&R Hospital on Monday and enquired about the former president's health. Singh was at the hospital for around 20 minutes.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also sent his best wishes to the former president and wished him early recovery.

Flood

FROM PAGE 12

However, seven rivers were flowing above the danger level at eight points across the country, said the report.

Over 40,000 people along with their livestock took shelter at flood shelter centres in different districts, said the FFWC report.

Our district correspondents reported that many cattle farmers and traders were in serious trouble as all the fields for grazing cattle went under water. For this reason, many farmers were selling their cattle at low prices.

Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension said this year's prolonged flooding has damaged crops worth about Tk 350 crore till mid-July.

Tens of thousands of farmers across the country suffered a double blow -- their crops being damaged by floods and also their seedbeds.

Many farmers fear they will not be able to cultivate Aman paddy in the upcoming months as most of their seedbeds have been destroyed. People whose houses have been damaged by floods are passing their days in hardship. They also don't have sufficient government relief and support for rehabilitation.

Most of them are struggling to earn their livelihoods, let alone manage money for repairing homes.

With floodwaters receding, waterborne diseases have started spreading in flood-hit areas. The victims have very poor access to medical facilities.

The government has formed 824 medical teams for providing treatment to the flood victims. Of them, 258 have already started their activities.



Farmers clean volcanic ash from vegetables after the eruption of Mount Sinabung volcano in Karo, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia yesterday.

Bail petition from abroad

FROM PAGE 12

opening fire on two top Exim Bank officials over a loan permission.

Rejecting their bail, the HC virtual bench ordered the siblings, currently in Thailand, to each give 5,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) as fine to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund in two weeks.

The HC released the full text of the order on August 8 after the judge signed it.

In the full text, Justice Md Ashraf Kamal observed that there was no scope for filing anticipatory bail petitions from abroad as per the law and rules.

Besides, the law, rules, and practice directions (issued by the chief justice) do not allow a lawyer to place submissions and arguments staying outside the country.

"Conducting a case before the court as a lawyer remaining outside the boundary of Bangladesh is illegal and beyond the morality," the HC

bench also observed.

On behalf of Ron and Dipu, lawyer Ajmalul Hossain QC placed submissions and arguments for the bail before the HC bench on July 20. The hearing was virtual but Ajmalul took part from abroad.

The two brothers had jointly filed the petition on July 2 through lawyer Saifullah seeking anticipatory bail in the case.

Exim Bank Director Lt Col (ret) Sirajul Islam had lodged the case with the capital's Gulshan Police Station on May 19 against Ron and Dipu for allegedly torturing two top officials of the bank and opening fire on them over a Tk 500 crore loan.

The accused reportedly left the country by air on May 25.

Later, Ron and Dipu filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking permission to challenge the HC order.

Their permission is pending with the apex court.

Angry Lebanese call

FROM PAGE 12

Fund have stalled amid a row between the government, banks and politicians over the scale of vast financial losses.

"It does not end with the government's resignation," said the protest flyer circulating on social media. "There is still (President Michel) Aoun, (Parliament Speaker Nabih) Berri and the entire system."

For many Lebanese, the explosion was the last straw in a protracted crisis over the collapse of the economy, corruption, waste and dysfunctional government.

The Beirut port mirrors the sectarian power system in which the same politicians have dominated the country since the 1975-90 civil war. Each faction has its quota of directors at the port, the nation's main trade artery.

"It's a good thing that the government resigned. But we need new blood or it won't work," silversmith Avedis Anserlian told Reuters in front of his demolished shop.

Aoun is required to consult with

parliamentary blocs on who should be the next prime minister, and is obliged to designate the candidate with the most support.

Forming a government amid factional rifts has been daunting in the past. Now with growing public discontent and the crushing financial crisis, it could be difficult to find someone willing to be prime minister.

Meanwhile, residents of Beirut continued to pick up the pieces as search operations for those still missing went on. Officials have said the blast could have caused losses of \$15 billion, a bill Lebanon cannot pay.

Ihsan Mokdad, a contractor, surveyed a gutted building in Gemmayze, a district a few hundreds metres from the port.

"As the prime minister said, the corruption is bigger than the state. They're all a bunch of crooks. I didn't see one MP visit this area. MPs should have come here in large numbers to raise morale," he said.

NZ reports first case after 102 days

FROM PAGE 12

An AFP tally from official sources showed yesterday that the number of confirmed infections worldwide passed 20.1 million.

More than 737,000 deaths had been recorded since the virus first emerged in China late last year and spread globally, with the figure expected to surpass 750,000 within days.

REINSTATED CURBS

The EU's health agency Monday urged countries seeing an increase in cases of Covid-19 to reinstate some curbs, warning of a resurgence of cases in parts of Europe.

In its latest risk assessment, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said there was evidence that the coronavirus was picking up speed.

"While many countries are now testing mild and asymptomatic cases, which has resulted in increased case reports, there is a true resurgence in

cases in several countries as a result of physical distancing measures being relaxed," the agency said.

The Stockholm-based agency said for those countries seeing an increase "the risk of further escalation of Covid-19 is high."

If those countries fail to implement or reinforce restrictions, the risk was "very high," it warned.

According to the ECDC, countries that had seen the increase after control measures were lifted, "should consider re-instating selected measures through a phased, step-wise and sustainable approach."

In Scotland, children began attending schools for the first time in five months yesterday as leaders across Britain try to kickstart a return to education despite coronavirus cases increasing again.

The devolved government has ordered pupils in different parts of the UK nation to return gradually through this week, with all classes set to have

resumed fully by next Tuesday.

France had already reacted by requiring mask-wearing in certain crowded areas and tourist hotspots of capital Paris.

Several French towns and cities have already introduced similar measures, as well as parts of Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain.

There was better news for residents of the Gaza Strip yesterday, as the enclave's only border crossing with Egypt was opened to people wanting to leave for the first time since the pandemic began.

But some residents were fearful of leaving the tightly-sealed territory, which has seen just 81 cases.

"There is a fear of being infected with Covid-19 in cars or buses in Egypt," Hatem al-Mansi told AFP. "In Gaza, we don't have that problem."

And in South Asia, India's coronavirus tally rose to more than 2.26 million yesterday with over

50,000 new cases in the last 24 hours, according to the health ministry.

Some 639,929 are active cases and more than 1.58 million people have recovered. The death toll has crossed the 45,000 mark to reach 45,257. India still has the third-highest number of Covid-19 cases after the US and Brazil.

Bhutan ordered its first nationwide lockdown yesterday after a returning resident tested positive for coronavirus after being discharged from quarantine and coming into close contact with people in the capital Thimphu.

The case took the total in the tiny Himalayan kingdom to 113, still the lowest in South Asia, and it has yet to record a fatality, reports Reuters.

Bhutan, which is heavily reliant on high-end tourists, banned tourism in March after an American visitor tested positive for the virus, and ordered a three week mandatory quarantine for everyone returning from abroad.

Iran says 2 convicted of spying for Israel, Germany, UK

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday that its courts have sentenced two men to 10 years each in jail for spying on the Islamic republic for Britain, Germany and Israel in separate cases.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said one of the men, Massud Mossaheb, had been "spying for (Israeli spy agency) Mossad and Germany in the guise" of the general secretary of the Austrian-Iranian Society.

Mossaheb was found to have been providing them with information on Iran's "missile, nuclear, nanotechnology and medical fields", he added.

The second man, Shahram Shirkhani, had been working for British intelligence, the spokesman said, quoted by the state television

website.

Shirkhani had been seeking to "corrupt authorities and recruit" people and give away information on "contracts related to the central bank, Melli Bank and the defence ministry".

Esmaili also said five more people had been arrested recently for alleged espionage in the foreign, defence and industries ministries, companies working in the energy industry, and Iran's atomic agency.

He did not give their identities or elaborate on their charges.

Austria called in mid-2019 for the release of Mossaheb, who was then 72 years old.

It said no formal charges had been pressed and the reason for his detention was unknown.

According to Austria's Der Standard newspaper, Mossaheb had travelled to Iran to accompany a delegation from

an Austrian research centre which had opened a subsidiary near Tehran.

After his detention in January 2019, his family had no contact with him for weeks before eventually learning that he was being held in Tehran's Evin prison.

The Austrian-Iranian Society says its aim is to foster closer ties between the two countries, particularly in the economic sphere.

Iran has recently announced several detentions and in some cases executions of people found guilty of spying by its courts.

The most recent was Mahmoud Mousavi Majd, a former translator executed last month for spying for the US and Israel, including helping to locate top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani killed later by the Americans in Iraq.

Iran executed another man named

Reza Asgari in July, after he was convicted of spying on Iran's missile programme for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

And in February Tehran handed down a similar sentence for Amir Rahimpour, another man convicted of spying for Washington and of conspiring to sell information on Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran announced in December it arrested eight people "linked to the CIA" involved in nationwide street protests that erupted the month before over a surprise petrol price hike.

It also said in July 2019 that it had dismantled a CIA spy ring, arresting 17 suspects between March 2018 and March 2019 and sentencing some of them to death.

US President Donald Trump at the time dismissed the claim as "totally false".

Stunning

FROM PAGE 12

The aerial footage captures two waterfalls close together on the side of the cliff top which is part of a popular coastal walk near Bundeena.

The small town is a small holiday destination close to Sydney known for its private bush walks and beautiful beaches.

The video shows as the wind drops the waterfall flows down the cliff naturally and then as it picks back up, the water is thrown in different directions.

The local town also experienced minor flooding with one of the main roads into Bundeena and nearby Maianbar blocked off.

A large boulder slid onto another access road in the area due to the heavy rain. Local ferry services were also stopped due to the large sea swell.

People were urged not to walk along the coastal tracks and to stay out of the floodwaters.

The New South Wales South Coast and parts of Sydney have been hammered with torrential rainfall with minor and major flooding across the region.

Hundreds of residents were forced to evacuate low-lying communities around Sussex Inlet and Moruya after more than 300mm of rain fell over the weekend.

Floodwaters rose quickly in Nowra as the Shoalhaven River broke its banks.

The Bureau of Meteorology has since scaled back the warning to "moderate flooding" for the Shoalhaven area.

Woman

FROM PAGE 12

to her in-law's house in Araihaazar from her home in Kanchpur of Sonargaon upazila.

They picked up the girl at gunpoint and raped her at an isolated place nearby, said Nazrul.

Hearing her screaming for help, some locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. The youths, however, managed to escape, said the OC.

"The victim initially kept the matter a secret for fear of social embarrassment. She filed the case after her husband came to know about the incident," he said.

The garment worker was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital yesterday morning for medical examinations.

In Dinajpur, police arrested four people on Monday night in connection with the rape of the college girl.

The arrestees are Shahinur Alam, 30, the alleged rapist, Azim Islam, 31, Sajedul Islam, 21, and Shahrul Islam, 20, all from Nawabganj upazila of the district.

The other accused, Rezwanul Islam, 20, is on the run.

The victim's classmate said they went to Sheikh Russell National Park on Monday afternoon. They were standing at a place between the national park and Ashura Beel, a popular tourist destination in Nawabganj upazila.

All of a sudden, four youths appeared there and started harassing them verbally.

At one stage, they beat up the victim's classmate and snatched money and mobile phones from the two. The youths then dragged the college girl into the forest and disappeared.

Shahinur, with the help of others, raped the girl in the forest. The youths also demanded ransom from the girl's family over the phone, said Ashok Kumar Chowhan, OC of Nawabganj Police Station, quoting the victim as saying.

Later, the victim's classmate informed some locals about the incident. One of the locals called police seeking help.

Around 9.00pm on Monday, Nawabganj police rescued the girl from near the forest and arrested four in connection with the incident.

Around midnight on Monday, the victim's classmate filed a case in connection with the incident accusing the five.

Yesterday, a Dinajpur court sent the four arrestees to jail after police produced them before it.

Police sent the victim to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for medical tests.

[Our Narayanganj and Dinajpur correspondents contributed to this report.]

UK police use of facial recognition ruled unlawful

AFP, London

The use of facial recognition technology by a British police force was ruled unlawful yesterday by the Court of Appeal in a case brought by a civil rights campaigner.

Ed Bridges had challenged South Wales Police's use of the technology after his face was scanned on two separate occasions in Cardiff -- once while Christmas shopping in 2017 and at an anti-arms protest a year later.

He said the technology had caused him "distress". The judges backed his appeal and ruled there was no clear guidance on where AFR Locate -- the technology being trialled by South Wales Police -- could be used and who could be put on a watchlist.

Israel closes Gaza goods crossing after balloon attacks

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel will close its goods crossing with the Gaza Strip, authorities said Monday, after militants in the Hamas-run territory fired rockets into the Mediterranean and launched incendiary balloons towards the Jewish state.

The Kerem Shalom crossing will be closed to all traffic except humanitarian equipment and fuel

from yesterday, COGAT, the defence ministry unit that oversees the crossings, said in a statement.

The move comes in response to the "continued launching of incendiary balloons" from Gaza, it added.

Israeli sources said late Monday that several balloons had landed in areas of southern Israel, without causing casualties.

Explosives tied to balloons and kites first emerged as a weapon in

Gaza during intense protests in 2018, when the devices drifted across the border daily, causing thousands of fires in Israeli farms and communities.

In the past week, such balloons have been launched three times from Gaza into Israel, each time triggering retaliatory strikes against Hamas positions.

Hamas also fired several rockets into the sea on Monday after repeated exchanges of fire with Israel in recent days, Palestinian security sources and

eyewitnesses said.

The rockets were a "message" to Israel to let it know that armed groups in Gaza will not "remain silent" in the face of an Israeli blockade and "aggression", a source close to Hamas told AFP.

Hamas and Israel have fought three wars since 2008.

Despite a truce last year, backed by the UN, Egypt and Qatar, the two sides clash sporadically with rockets, mortar fire or incendiary balloons.