

INDIAN 'SPY' ON DEATH ROW IN PAKISTAN

Islamabad allows consular access to New Delhi

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan has ordered consular access for Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian naval commander condemned to death for spying, following a decision this week by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The United Nations court ruled on Wednesday in the Hague that Pakistan should undertake an "effective review" of the case, adding that a "continued stay of execution" was needed for that to happen.

"As a responsible state, Pakistan will grant consular access to Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav according to Pakistani laws for which modalities are being worked out," the government said in a statement late on Thursday.

Jadhav was arrested in March 2016 in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, the site of a long-running conflict between security forces and separatists. He was convicted of planning espionage and sabotage and sentenced to death.

India says Jadhav is innocent and had asked the UN court to intervene, saying his trial had been unfair and Pakistan had denied him diplomatic

assistance.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the ICJ ruling, tweeting that "Truth and justice have prevailed".

Pakistan argued that a treaty between the neighbours did not oblige it to allow diplomatic assistance for those suspected of being spies or terrorists.

However, Pakistani officials considered the ruling a favourable outcome overall, as the court did not order the acquittal and release of Jadhav.

Pakistan's attorney general Anwar Mansoor Khan told journalists outside the Peace Palace in the Hague that he considers the case "a clear win for Pakistan" as the court did not order the acquittal and release of Jadhav as India had sought.

He added that Pakistan would consider the review of Jadhav's case as ordered by the UN court but said a Pakistani court of law would have to decide how to proceed with that. When asked by journalists if that meant Indian diplomats would get access to Jadhav, he stressed that was up to the court.



Afghans security personnel investigate at the site of a bomb explosion in front of Kabul University in Kabul yesterday. At least eight people have been killed and 33 wounded in the blast, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

Runaway truck kills 8 children in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Eight schoolchildren were among nine people killed yesterday aboard a runaway truck that crashed in central Philippines while transporting them to a sports activity, the authorities said.

The dump truck's brakes failed while it descended a mountain road outside Boljoon town centre with about 30 children and a few parents and teachers crammed on the truck bed, town mayor Merlou Derama told AFP.

It will be

FROM PAGE 16

In his verified Facebook page, he also condemned her statement.

The minister added that he had replied to questions relating to human rights raised by NGOs, both at home and abroad, at the full house of the UN's Human Rights Council several times. But no one made the type of allegations Priya raised. "It will be looked into why she has done this."

Shahriar said Trump as a president too knew that false allegations are made to him. The US administration regularly gets information through its embassy in Dhaka and the two governments are always in touch.

He said many people were criticising different communities while criticising Priya. It is not right just as Priya's allegations are not. This kind of attitude is not acceptable from a person with contacts at different levels of the government.

"Bangladesh is a good example of religious harmony. Many people damage it either for personal interest or without understanding it. All should refrain from such acts," Shahriar added.

Priya, from Pirojpur, who works in SHAREE, an NGO, recently met Trump at the White House and made the allegation.

"I am from Bangladesh and here is the 37 million Hindu, Buddhist and Christian are disappeared. Please, help us, the Bangladeshi people. We want to stay in our country. Still there are 18 million minority people. My request is: please help us, we don't want to leave our country. Just help us to stay. I have lost my home, they burnt my home, they taken my land; but no judgement here taken place... please."

Trump: who took the land? "Ah, the fundament... ah Muslim fundamentalist group. And they are... always they are getting the political shelter... always," Priya said.

Mash ruled out

FROM PAGE 16

Mashrafe for the upcoming tour. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) later revealed that all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin was ruled out of the tour as well following a lower back injury and paceman Taskin Ahmed was named as his replacement.

The BCB named opener Tamim Iqbal as the Tigers' captain for the tour through a press release yesterday.

Man beaten

from page 16

College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead, said the police official.

A case was filed with Pahartali Police Station in connection with the murder.

Communications disrupted as flood

FROM PAGE 16

except for the Jamuna, the Ganges and the Padma were receding.

Yesterday, WDB forecasted that in the next 24 hours, water level of Jamuna may recede while water of Ganges and Padma may continue to rise in the next 48 hours.

It also said flood situation may remain unchanged in Tangail and Sirajganj, may deteriorate in Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, and Munshiganj, and may improve in Bogura, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Netrakona, Sunamganj and Sylhet in the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies yesterday reported that days of heavy downpour had battered the northern and south-eastern part of Bangladesh, putting more than four million people at risk of food insecurity and disease.

In Tangail, a 50-metre stretch of Bhuapur-Tarakandi road-cum-embankment was damaged in Tepibari area of Bhuapur upazila around 8:00pm Thursday, said local Water Development Board's Chief Engineer Akhil Kumar Biswas.

The damage caused suspension of vehicular movement on the road, he said, adding that it would be repaired by putting Geo bags within 72 hours.

Yesterday, the water of Jamuna river increased 8cm and was flowing 99cm above the danger level at Sirajganj point, reports our Tangail correspondent.

In Gaibandha, flood water suspended road communications of five upazilas -- Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Phulchhari, Shaghata and Gobindaganj -- with the rest of the district.

Gaibandha Roads and Highway Department Executive Engineer Asaduzzaman said about 70km of a regional highway -- from Sundarganj to Shaghata -- went underwater.

About 517km of earthen roads and 187km of paved roads in four upazilas were submerged, according to local Disaster Risk Reduction office.

Rail communication on Gaibandha-Bonarpara route had remained suspended as the water

washed away the soil beneath the track, stretching about 1km from Trimohoni to Badiakhali, said Abul Kashem, station master of Gaibandha Railway Station.

However, the train communication was restored by diverting two Dhaka bound trains -- Lalmoni Express and Rangpur Express -- via Parbatipur-Santahar section, he said.

A large number of Mymensingh and Dhaka-bound commuters from Dewanganj, Islampur and Melandah upazilas of Jamalpur suffered as rail communication on Jamalpur-Dewanganj route has remained suspended due to the flood since Tuesday, said Shahabuddin, station master of Jamalpur Railway Station.

Rail commuters of Sarishabari upazila experienced the same problem as Jamalpur-Tarakandi rail route was declared suspended since Wednesday due to the flood, he said.

Flood has badly affected around 30km paved and unpaved roads in Kalmakanda upazila of Netrakona, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

In Bandarban, connecting roads from Ruma, Thanchi, and Rowangchhari to Bandarban town have been badly damaged by rain and flood.

Around 12km roads have been damaged as landslides occurred at some 32 spots along the roads, said Bandarban Roads and Highway Department (RHD) Executive Engineer Sajib Ahmed.

"We will need around six months to fully recover the affected roads. The loss could be worth around Tk25 crore", he said.

Meanwhile, a bridge constructed by the RHD spending around Tk10.47 crore has collapsed recently in the district's Golden Temple area before its inauguration, reports our Bandarban correspondent.

In Rangamati, link roads on Rangamati-Chattogram, Rangamati-Khagrachari, Rangamati-Bandarban and Rangamati-Naniachar-Longadu routes were damaged heavily in the last few days due to heavy rainfall and water stream, reports our correspondent there.

Heavy vehicles were banned on Rangamati-Khagrachari and Rangamati-Chattogram link roads for three days due to landslide.

According to Rangamati RHD, landslide occurred at 58 places on the four link roads and 35 main pavements were collapsed.

CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Shanti Chakma told The Daily Star that many parts of Rangamati-Khagrachari link road were damaged in 2017.

But the RHD did not repair it permanently which resulted in the damage this year, Shanti added.

Turkey launches air strike on Iraqi Kurdistan

AFP, Ankara

Turkey on Thursday launched an air attack on Iraqi Kurdistan in response to the killing of a Turkish diplomat in the region, the country's defence minister said.

The Turkish vice consul to Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region was shot dead Wednesday in the local capital Erbil. Police sources said two other people were also killed.

There was no claim of responsibility for the shooting, but many Iraqi experts have pointed to the probability that the Turkish separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which Ankara considers a terrorist group, was behind the attack.

"Following the evil attack in Erbil, we have launched the most comprehensive air operation on Qandil and dealt a heavy blow to the (PKK) terror organisation," defence minister Hulusi Akar said in a statement.

Targets such as "armaments positions, lodgings, shelters and caves belonging to terrorists" were destroyed. "Our fight against terror will continue with increasing determination until the last terrorist is neutralised and the blood of our martyrs will be avenged," he added.

Kenya to launch Africa's biggest wind farm

AFP, Lake Turkana

Kenya was yesterday set to inaugurate Africa's biggest wind power plant, a mammoth project in a gusty stretch of remote wilderness that now provides nearly a fifth of its energy needs.

The \$680-million (600 million euro) project, a sprawling 365-turbine wind farm on the eastern shores of Lake Turkana, will deliver 310 megawatts of renewable power to the national grid of East Africa's most dynamic economy.

The largest private investment in Kenya's history, the Lake Turkana Wind Power project was beset with delays and took nearly a decade to rise from the arid landscape 600 kilometres (372 miles) north of Nairobi.

The Turkana project, lying in a natural corridor dubbed "the windiest place on earth", is promised to harness this endless power at low cost, officials say.

"It has been an incredible journey. Clearly (this is) a very historic day," Rizwan Fazal, the executive director of the Lake Turkana Power Project said ahead of a ceremony launching the project.

"It sends a very strong signal about Kenya being ripe for projects."

The project, far more ambitious in scale than rivals elsewhere on the continent, has been closely watched as a case study of investing in renewables in Africa, where demand for energy is soaring as economies grow and populations swell.

In Kenya -- which relies heavily on hydropower and geothermal -- power is unreliable and costly, hindering business as energy-intensive sectors such as manufacturing look to take off.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has previously committed to 100 percent renewable energy for Kenya by 2020 -- a pledge the government has been accused of betraying with plans to build a coal-fired power plant off the

coast in Lamu.

That project -- deemed unnecessary by experts -- has been stalled by legal challenges.

The Lake Turkana wind plant, connected through a 428-kilometre power line to the national grid in Suswa, is now generating 15 percent of Kenya's entire installed capacity.

The windmills, manufactured by Danish company Vestas, had to be brought one-by-one overland from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, some 1,200 kilometres away. More than 200 kilometres of road leading to the site had to be upgraded.

The nearly-50 metre turbines were engineered to handle the fierce gusts that tear through the "Turkana Corridor", a wind tunnel that generates optimal conditions, year round.

Teacher

FROM PAGE 16

point, two of them hacked me with the machetes," Noman told The Daily Star by phone.

The attackers, who used to harass the schoolgirls, wrote several derogatory statements on the school wall because the teacher protested the stalking.

Four of the attackers are students of the school and the rest go to a local college.

Headmaster Md Mohiuddin said Noman joined the school in 2012. He was supposed to sit on Saturday with the students who wrote the statements on the wall, but they attacked him in the meantime. He demanded punishment for the attackers.

A tenth grader of the school said, "Noman Sir is very strict and inspires us to study. He protests any negative activities of the students."

A case was filed yesterday against five identified and four unidentified attackers, said Ziaul Ahsan, officer-in charge of Muladi Police Station.

Tiger takes catnap

FROM PAGE 16

The tiger is believed to be have come from the neighbouring Kaziranga National Park, a Unesco World Heritage site, home to tigers, elephants, bears, and the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses.

"Our vet is making plans with Assam Forest Department to tranquilize a tiger that has entered a house," the group said in a social media post yesterday. "Assam floods bring in unusual guests!"

Rohini Ballave Saikia, Deputy Director of Kaziranga National Park, said that there had been attempts to move the tiger but eventually it left of its own accord. "This is the time for their regular activities as it is cooler," he said.

Saikia said that the animal was ultimately not tranquilized because "it was calm and did not pose a danger."

With only 3,900 tigers living in the wild, the animals are considered endangered, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

The tiger wasn't the only creature who had fled the flash floods. The Wildlife Trust said the park had lost track of deer, rhinos and elephants during the recent disaster.

Officials estimated that more than 95% of Kaziranga National Park was underwater due to the incessant rains.

Arun Vignesh of the Indian Forest Service yesterday tweeted a shocking image of rhinos seeking shelter from rising water. In another video, a rescue team is shown pulling a small rhino calf into a raft.

"The animals seek higher ground once the rains begin on their own, but they have to cross a national highway to get to higher ground," said Saikia. "Animals that are left behind if they are injured while crossing the highway are assisted by park staff."

Between July 13 and 18, a total of 83 animal deaths in the sanctuary were recorded by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

The tiger itself was spotted near the highway on Wednesday at 8:30 am moving away from the park, according to Wildlife Trust India. The organization said the animal was "probably disturbed (and) jumped across the wall of a scrap garage and took refuge in the dark room."

More than 227 people have died since the rains in southeast Asia began in mid-July. Over 10.3 million people have been affected in total.