

Heatstroke kills 2 in Japan post-typhoon blackout

AFP, Tokyo

Heatstroke has killed two people in Japan, officials said yesterday, as nearly half a million homes struggled with electricity outages after a powerful typhoon battered Tokyo and the surrounding area.

A 93-year-old woman and a 65-year-old man were found unconscious at their respective homes on Tuesday and were later confirmed dead by doctors, an official from Chiba prefecture east of Tokyo told AFP.

At least 48 other people were sent to hospital for symptoms of heatstroke Tuesday, she said, as the mercury hit above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in areas where electricity is still out after Typhoon Faxai hit on Monday.

By yesterday morning, some 456,000 households were still without power, Tokyo Electric Co. (TEPCO) said in a statement.

"Please take refuge in cool places and drink water to avoid heatstroke," TEPCO said, apologising to customers for the outage.

A local official said 84,000 households were also without water on Tuesday because several water purification plants had no power, but "water supply is recovering gradually" as electricity is restored.

With help from the military, officials dispatched water tanker trucks to the affected areas, she said.

Typhoon Faxai powered into the Tokyo region in the early hours of Monday warning, packing record winds that prompted warnings for tens of thousands of people to leave their homes.

The storm killed two people, though it caused relatively little damage in Tokyo beyond disrupting the morning commute.

In Chiba it brought down power lines, and it left 17,000 passengers stranded at Narita airport outside the capital after trains running to and from the transport hub were suspended.

6 held

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Rab disclosed the names of three of the six; Wahid Ali, Azim, and Fazlul Karim.

Talking to journalists, Fazlul Karim said they used to prepare fake birth certificates for Tk 300 to Tk 400. An official of Dhaka North City Corporation used to help them make the fake birth certificates.

He claimed that the official used to give them login IDs and passwords to access a server for birth registration, Fazlul added.

Briefing reporters, Mohiuddin Faruk said they conducted the raid following information from other arrestees that fake documents for getting passports were being prepared there.

He claimed that some unscrupulous employees at union parishads and city corporations helped them.

The Rab official claimed that the fake documents were for Rohingyas.

Nusrat's mother

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police recorded her statement but I was not allowed.

"Coming out of the OC's room, Nusrat told me that the OC recorded her statement on camera removing her scarf."

Nusrat's mother also said it was mournful that Nusrat's footage was circulated on social media 30 minutes after Nusrat was set ablaze on April 6.

Meanwhile, Nusrat's brother Rashedul Hasan Raihan told the court that after getting out of the OC's room his sister said that the OC asked her indecent and objectionable questions.

He said he saw a video on social media on April 11 that shows his sister narrating how she was harassed by her principal.

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa in Feni, was set ablaze on April 6 allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against the madrasa principal Siraj for sexually harassing her.

After fighting for her life for five days, she died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 10.

The same day, Moazzem was withdrawn from his post of Sonagazi Police Station OC, as Nusrat's family alleged that they were not getting his cooperation.

A footage of Moazzem asking Nusrat humiliating questions also went viral on social media, drawing widespread criticism.

On April 15, a case was filed against Moazzem Hossain under the Digital Security Act.

On July 17, the tribunal framed charges against suspended Sonagazi OC Moazzem.

The court yesterday set September 19 for the next hearing of the case.

Cuet student

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Road area, Bachchu said.

His nephew Touhidul Islam was also on the motorcycle when the crash took place near Rani Mahal Cinema Hall. Touhidul was unharmed.

Police were yet to trace the microbus or its driver until midnight.



This picture taken yesterday shows an Israeli bulldozer demolishing Palestinian mobile homes built by EU funding in the village of Mufagara south of Yatta near Hebron in the occupied West Bank, as they were reportedly built without Israeli authorisation in the "Area C".

PHOTO: AFP

'Dangerous' and 'racist'

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Arab foreign ministers said in a statement after a meeting in Cairo.

"The league regards these statements as undermining the chances of any progress in the peace process and will torpedo all its foundations," the statement said.

In a series of separate statements, Qatar criticised "Israel's continued contempt of international law"; Turkey slammed the annexation pledge as "racist"; Jordan called Netanyahu's plan a "serious escalation"; and Saudi Arabia called for an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), reported Aljazeera Online.

"Any Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdictions and administration in the occupied West Bank is without any international legal effect," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"Such a prospect would be devastating to the potential of reviving negotiations, regional peace and the very essence of a two-state solution."

An EU statement said Netanyahu's plans would "undermine the viability of the two-state solution and the prospects for a lasting peace."

Palestinian leaders said Netanyahu was destroying any hopes for peace, while senior official Hanan Ashrawi said the plans were "worse than apartheid."

Netanyahu's main opponents in the election, the centrist Blue and White alliance, along with others called the announcement an obvious attempt to win right-wing nationalist votes, which will be key for the premier's Likud party.

Blue and White leader Benny Gantz has previously spoken of the Jordan Valley remaining under Israeli control forever, but he called Netanyahu's announcement an "empty declaration" that would amount to nothing.

'WHEN IT WANTS'

Politicians from smaller parties on the far-right who are competing with Netanyahu for votes called it too little and too late.

"Why talk about annexation one week before the elections when the government can decide to apply it when it wants, and even today?" said Transport Minister Bezalel Smotrich, part of the far-right Yamina alliance in the upcoming vote.

However the Yesha Council, an umbrella organisation for Israeli settlements in the West Bank, said it was a "historic event."

Netanyahu's announcement was only the start of a tense evening.

Later Tuesday night, Netanyahu was hustled off stage at a campaign rally when sirens warning of incoming rockets blared in the southern city of Ashdod.

Both rockets fired from Gaza were shot down by Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, and Netanyahu later returned to the stage after the all-clear, saying Hamas was scared of him winning the election.

Israel later bombed Hamas positions in Gaza in response, causing no casualties.

The Jordan Valley accounts for

around one-third of the West Bank and Israeli right-wing politicians have long viewed the strategic area as a part of the territory they would never retreat from, seeing it as the country's eastern border.

Israeli settlements are located in what is known as Area C of the West Bank, which accounts for some 60 percent of the territory, including the vast majority of the Jordan Valley.

Netanyahu said his annexation plans would not include Palestinian cities, such as the Jordan Valley's Jericho, though it would be encircled by Israeli territory.

Israel occupied the West Bank in the Six-Day War of 1967 in a move never recognised by the international community.

Its settlements there are considered illegal under international law and major stumbling blocks to peace as they are built on land the Palestinian see as part of their future state.

Israel says the Jordan Valley is vital to its security.

Nine arrested in six districts

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(Sherpur circle), told The Daily Star.

On Sunday, two class-I students went to his home for the same purpose and the accused raped them using the same trick.

Injured badly, one of the victims informed her family members about the incident after returning home, said the police official.

The victims also said Joynal had threatened them with death if they disclosed the matter, said police.

On Tuesday morning, victims' families informed the local union parishad chairman about the incidents and the chairman subsequently informed the police.

Law enforcers picked up Joynal from Khaduli village on Tuesday. Hours after his arrest, fathers of two schoolgirls filed two rape cases against him.

Police said the accused admitted his crime during primary interrogation.

Yesterday, the victims were sent to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for tests.

A three-member medical team was formed to examine the victims, said hospital sources.

In Panchagarh, police arrested a man from Pashchim Molanipara village on Tuesday on charges of raping a seven-year-old girl.

The arrestee is Ashraf Ali, 55, of the same village.

Ashraf used to frequent the victim's house as a neighbour. On Tuesday afternoon, he took the minor girl to his home and raped her in absence of his family members.

Hearing a girl screaming, neighbours rescued the victim and detained Ashraf. He was later handed over to police.

The victim's father filed a case with Panchagarh Police Station on Tuesday night.

In another incident in the district, a man was sent to jail by a local court on Tuesday afternoon on charges of raping a schoolgirl.

Police picked up Jagadis Chandra Roy, 30, from Panchagarh town on Monday. The following day, the victim's elder brother filed a case against Jagadis.

Quoting the victim's family, police said Jagadis, a house tutor of the class-X student, raped the girl for

about four years with the promise that he would marry her.

In Dhaka, police picked up two men from Savar upazila's Ashulia area early on Tuesday for allegedly gang-raping a garment worker in Gazirchat area the previous day.

The arrestees are Kaiyum, 26, of Shathmaria village in Sherpur, and Tuhin Alam, 44, of Mushoria village in Pabna.

In Jhalakathi, police picked up the mother and the stepfather of a 13-year-old schoolgirl from the district town on Tuesday night for allegedly helping some men raping the girl who later became pregnant.

Quoting the victim, police said the sixth-grader was raped by several men with the help of the two arrestees about five months ago.

Yesterday, the victim filed a case with Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station against her mother and stepfather. Later, a local court sent the arrestees to jail after the couple were produced before it.

Police said they were probing the incident to identify the rapists.

In Tangail, police arrested a

16-year-old boy in Delduar upazila on Tuesday over raping a schoolgirl.

The arrest came hours after the victim's father, a rickshaw-van puller, filed a case against the youth, a neighbour of the victim, with Delduar Police Station.

According to the case statement, the arrestee raped the class-VII student on Monday night when she was alone at her home.

The victim was sent to Tangail General Hospital yesterday for tests, said police.

In Moulvibazar, a court on Tuesday sent a 25-year-old youth to jail on charges of raping a college girl in Kulaura upazila the previous day.

The accused is a cousin of the victim.

Police picked up the accused from his home on Tuesday morning, hours after the victim filed a case with Kulaura Police Station.

A local court sent the arrestee to jail after he was produced before it. Our correspondents in Bogura, Jhalakathi, Savar, Thakurgaon, Tangail, and Moulvibazar contributed to this report.

'Animal to be sacrificed'

FROM PAGE 1

Khashoggi could be heard pleading with the men before he was drugged and had a bag put over his head. Sounds of a struggle and what is thought to be Khashoggi's body being dismembered could also be heard on the tape.

The 59-year-old, a Washington Post contributor who was living in the United States, had travelled to the consulate in order to sign marriage papers so he could wed his girlfriend Hatice Cengiz.

But instead, he was dragged into a back room and killed while she waited for him outside.

The tape is time-stamped at 1.02pm, just 12 minutes before Khashoggi arrived at the consulate.

It describes, according to Al Jazeera, the conversations of Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, a senior Saudi intelligence officer and the bodyguard of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Dr Salah Muhammad al-Tubaigy, the head of Forensic Evidence at the Saudi General Security Department.

"Is it possible to put the body in a bag?" Mutreb can be heard asking.

Al-Tubaigy responds: "No. Too heavy, very tall too. Actually, I've always worked on cadavers. I know

how to cut very well. I have never worked on a warm body but I'll also manage that easily.

"I normally put on my earphones and listen to music when I cut cadavers. In the meantime, I sip on my coffee and smoke.

"After I dismember it, you will wrap the parts into plastic bags, put them in suitcases and take them out [of the building]."

At the end of the conversation, Mutreb asks whether the "animal to be sacrificed" has arrived. At 1:14pm, an unidentified member of the hit squad says "[he] is here."

When Khashoggi entered the consulate, he was greeted by a familiar face before being pulled by the arm into the consul-general's office on the second floor, according to the Daily Sabah.

"Please sit. We have to take you back [to Riyadh]," Mutreb said.

"There is an order from Interpol. Interpol demanded you be returned. We are here to take you," Mutreb is quoted as saying.

Khashoggi responded: "There are no lawsuits against me. My fiancée is waiting outside for me."

In the last 10 minutes before he

was killed, Mutreb asked Khashoggi to "leave a message for your son", saying not to worry if he could not reach the journalist.

When Khashoggi refused, Mutreb said: "Write it, Mister Jamal. Hurry up. Help us so we can help you, because in the end we will take you back to Saudi Arabia and if you don't help us you know what will happen eventually."

By that time Khashoggi was fully aware of his situation and asked if they planned to drug him.

The operatives then drugged the Saudi journalist and put a plastic bag over his head in a bid to suffocate him. His last words before losing consciousness were: "I have asthma. Do not do it, you will suffocate me."

Sound of an autopsy saw dismembering the 59-year-old's body can be heard at 1.39pm local time. The procedure lasted 30 minutes.

His body is yet to be recovered.

Turkey has called Khashoggi's killing "premeditated murder" orchestrated by the Saudi government.

Saudi officials have countered that claim, insisting Khashoggi was killed in a "rogue operation", after initially claiming he had left the building before vanishing.

Saudi authorities have charged 11 unnamed suspects over Khashoggi's murder, including five who could face the death penalty on charges of "ordering and committing the crime". Mutreb and al-Tubaigy are believed to be among them.

The CIA has reportedly concluded that Crown Prince Mohammed ordered the killing, which officials in Riyadh deny.

The UN human rights expert who conducted an independent probe into the murder of Khashoggi, Agnes Callamard, said in a report last month that the state of Saudi Arabia was responsible for the murder. The report also found "credible evidence" that linked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the killing of Khashoggi. The rapporteur noted she had received no cooperation from Riyadh and minimal help from the US.

Khashoggi's killing provoked widespread revulsion and marred the image of the crown prince.

A report in the Washington Post in April said Saudi Arabia gave Khashoggi's four children "million-dollar houses" and "monthly five-figure payments" as compensation for the killing of their father.

BCB takes

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year. It is not that they do not want to participate, but they have made that observation. So, having considered the whole situation, we will have a T20 tournament managed by the board this year. No franchises will be involved in this tournament. The tournament will be funded by the board."

The BCB boss also cleared the air over players' payments, accommodation costs and also about appointing coaching staff under the new structure and said: "We are going to dedicate the upcoming edition of the BPL to Bangabandhu and the tournament will be named after him. All the teams will remain the same, only the BCB will be part of the management. I hope everyone will be happy. It's more like the Big Bash League of Australia."

He added that the players' draft and auction would be staged in the same manner and, although the tournament will not be franchise-based, the names of the teams will remain the same and the option for sponsors is still open.

"We will provide everything but if we have a team sponsor then they might do something. If they want to bring some foreign players through direct signings, they can. And if any team wants to bring expensive coaches, they can also do that. The sponsors will be given some advantages," said Hassan.

However, he clearly expressed that they were not going for any contracts with franchisees this season as their demands could not be met in such a short time, which is the reason the BCB decided to spend the huge amount of money themselves.

OC arranged

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The woman filed a case on Monday accusing five persons of confining her to a room and gang-raping her multiple times between August 29 and August 31.

The accused Russel, Shariful Islam Chontu, Hossain, Osman and Sanju are from different villages in Pabna sadar.

Of them, Russel, to whom she was married at the police station, and Shariful, joint secretary of Dapunia Union Awami League, had been arrested after the case was filed.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday said it will observe the government's action taken over the allegation of "forced marriage" by the police.

The court said this after Supreme Court lawyer Jamiul Hoque Faisal expressed concern that the investigation into the case might get misled as the OC and other policemen are threatening the victim.

"Let us see what steps the administration takes regarding this," said the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Khairul Alam said, asking the lawyer to approach to this court if proper steps are not taken over the incident.

Jamiul placed before the bench some newspapers containing reports of the incident.

According to the complaint filed by the woman, Russel and Hossain, who are her acquaintances, took her to the house of one Osman and raped her several times on August 29.

She informed Russel's parents about it the next day. On August 31, she went to Shariful's office in Tebunia area for an arbitration.

Shariful and his associate Sonju then kept her confined to the office and raped her several times until she managed to flee, the case statement read.

On September 5, she went to the police station where police allegedly arranged the marriage.

Ajam Uddin Khan who registered the marriage told reporters that he was forced to hold the marriage ceremony.

The marriage with the key rape accused was a plot to save the rapists, the woman's brother said.

Different rights bodies have demanded neutral and unbiased investigation into the incident.

"This is no doubt that it was an attempt to save the rapists," said Kamrunnahar Jolly, president of Pabna Mohila Parishad.

Ain o Salish Kendra in a statement yesterday said that only a criminal court can hold the trial of a rape.

'Cool discovery'

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boreas rivals another pterosaur as the largest flying animal of all time, researchers reported in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

"This is a cool discovery," said David Hone, lead author of the study and a researcher at Queen Mary University in London.

"It is great that we can identify Cryodrakon as being distinct from Quetzalcoatlus," the other giant pterosaur for which it was initially mistaken, he said in a statement.

C boreas was hiding in plain sight. Its remains were first discovered more than 30 years ago in Alberta, Canada, yet elicited scant excitement because of the misclassification.

But a closer look at the fossil remains of a juvenile and the intact giant neck bone of a full-grown specimen left no doubt that a new species had been discovered.

Like other winged reptiles living at the same time, about 77 million years ago, C boreas was carnivorous and probably fed on lizards, small mammals and even baby dinosaurs.