

UN joins search for missing DR Congo cargo plane

AFP, Kinshasa

UN forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo have sent three aircraft to help search for a DRC government cargo plane with eight people on board missing since Thursday.

The plane, which had been supplying equipment for a visit to Goma by President Felix Tshisekedi, disappeared after taking off in bad weather from the eastern city.

The UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO sent two planes and a helicopter on Saturday to try to locate the Antonov 72 plane, whose crew included two Russians according to Moscow's embassy in Kinshasa.

If the plane is found, MONUSCO would do everything it could to get help to the crew, spokeswoman Florence Marshal told AFP.

"But the weather is not making the task any easier," she added.

Congolese aircraft are already searching for the missing plane, which according to the DRC's Civil Aviation Authority (AAC) was lost 59 minutes after takeoff.

One wounded in shooting in US church

AFP, Washington

A gunman opened fire Saturday in a small town church in New Hampshire, wounding one person before being taken into custody, police said.

The motive of the shooting and how the shooter was subdued were not known, said Tracey Hanes, dispatcher for the police in the town of Pelham in the largely rural northeastern state.

Hanes said a funeral ceremony was either under way or about to begin at the church when the gunman opened fire.

The wounded person was hospitalized in undisclosed condition.

Earlier reports said several people were injured in the shooting at the New England Pentacostal Church, a squat white building in Pelham, a town of 15,000.

The state governor confirmed the shooting incident.

"State officials are on scene assisting local first responders in the response and investigation of a shooting in Pelham, NH. While this remains a very active scene, the State of New Hampshire will provide all necessary resources to support the community and our local partners," Sununu tweeted.

Lost chapter

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Murasaki, like the author.

Experts have confirmed the authenticity of the newfound manuscript, according to Japanese media.

The manuscript has been described as 21.9cm (8.6in) long and 14.3cm (5.6in) wide.

No original version of The Tale of Genji is believed to have survived, but other writers have transcribed the story.

The newly uncovered manuscript was transcribed by the Japanese poet Fujiwara no Teika, according to experts. Teika's transcriptions are believed to be the oldest available versions of the novel.

Four other chapters also transcribed by Teika have previously been recovered.

Current work on the newly discovered chapter was previously done using manuscripts completed two and a half centuries following Teika's era, Junko Yamamoto, a professor at the Kyoto University of Advanced Science, told the Asahi Shimbun.

"It is very significant that this discovery of the manuscript edited by Teika will be available for researchers," she told the publication.

'Robber' killed

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Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, senior warrant officer of Rab-9.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the "robbers" opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate that eventually triggered a "gunfight", he said.

Rab members recovered the bullet-hit body of Zainul from the spot and sent it to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the Rab official.

Two killed

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Metal Workers Federation told The Daily Star that the deceased might have inhaled toxic gas inside the tank.

Meanwhile, Assistant Inspector Mehedi Hasan of the department of explosives said it was unlikely that toxic gas would form inside a water tank of a tugboat. He said they were investigating the matter.

No case was filed regarding the incident as of filing of this report at 7:30pm.

Between January 2018 and this month, 40 workers were killed at shipbreaking yards of Sitakunda.



PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong police detain a pro-democracy protester from outside a shopping centre in the Tai Koo area yesterday. Hong Kong riot police skirmished with small groups of masked pro-democracy protesters who held flashmob gatherings in multiple locations -- although crowds were smaller and less violent than recent weekends.

4 lakh can be displaced: UN

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Kurdish authorities and foreign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break out of captivity.

The Kurdish administration in northern Syria said that Turkish bombardment near a camp for the displaced led to nearly 800 relatives of IS members fleeing.

US President Donald Trump has been accused of abandoning a loyal ally in the fight against IS after ordering American troops to pull back from the border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor reported yesterday that 14 more civilians had been killed in fighting.

More than 50 civilians have now died on the Syrian side, with Turkish reports putting the number of civilians dead from Kurdish shelling inside Turkey at 18.

The Observatory said pro-Ankara fighters "executed" at least nine civilians on Saturday near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad.

The Kurds said a female Kurdish party official and her driver were among those killed.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

said yesterday President Donald Trump had ordered the withdrawal of up to 1,000 troops from northern Syria, **HUMANITARIAN FEARS**

Aid groups have warned of another humanitarian disaster in Syria's eight-year-old war if the offensive is not halted.

Some 12,000 IS fighters -- Syrians, Iraqis as well as foreigners from 54 countries -- are detained in Kurdish prisons, according to official Kurdish statistics.

Displacement camps meanwhile host some 12,000 foreigners -- 8,000 children and 4,000 women.

"The brutal military assault led by Turkey and its mercenaries is now taking place near a camp in Ain Issa, where there are thousands (of people) from families of IS," a Kurdish administration statement said.

"Some were able to escape after bombardments that targeted" the camp.

It said the Ain Issa camp was "now without guards" and 785 relatives of IS jihadists had fled.

The SDF, a coalition of Kurdish and Arab fighters, was the main partner on the ground in the US-led campaign against IS.

According to the Observatory, at least 104 of its fighters have been

killed since the start of the Turkish offensive.

FIERCE FIGHTING

According to Turkish media, Ankara aims to take control of a territory 120 kilometre (75 miles) long and 30 kilometres into Syria, up to the towns of Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain.

Near Tal Abyad, "fierce combat" unfolded around Suluk, with Turkish air raids targeting the area, according to the Britain-based Observatory.

"The Turks are trying to take control, but there are fierce battles with our forces," an SDF official said.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP that fighting was ongoing on the western outskirts of Ras al-Ain, where Kurdish forces had pushed back Turkish forces and its Syrian rebel allies.

"Ankara's forces and pro-Turkish rebels pulled back in several areas where they had advanced the day before," the Observatory head said.

On Saturday, Ankara announced that it had overrun the town, but the SDF denied the claim.

SDF fighters have taken mounting losses against the vastly superior military firepower of Turkey, which has defied mounting international protests and the threat of US sanctions in pressing on with its offensive.

Typhoon leaves 26 dead in Japan

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retirement home in Kawagoe, northwest of Tokyo, which was flooded up to its top floor.

One elderly woman wearing an orange life vest was brought out from a boat on the back of a hard-hat wearing rescuer. Others were hoisted onto wheelchairs and pushed along a muddy shore on arrival by boat.

Hagibis smashed into the main Japanese island of Honshu on Saturday night as one of the most violent typhoons in recent years, with wind gusts of up to 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles per hour). **'PLEASE DO YOUR BEST'**

The storm claimed its first victim even before making landfall, when high winds flipped a vehicle, killing its driver.

Landslides and flooding claimed more lives overnight, and the toll climbed higher after sunrise yesterday, as the scale of the devastation wrought by Hagibis became clear.

Bodies were retrieved from submerged homes and vehicles, from raging overflowing rivers, and from buildings buried in landslides.

The dead included a municipal worker whose car was overcome by floodwaters and two Chinese crew members aboard a boat that sank overnight in Tokyo Bay.

Four of the crew were rescued, but authorities were still searching for another six.

"The government will do its utmost," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, vowing that rescue efforts would run through the night.

"Please do your best," he told a disaster management meeting.

More than 110,000 homes were still without power by yesterday evening, with others experiencing water outages.

At the storm's peak, more than seven million people were placed under non-compulsory evacuation orders, and over 135,000 people were still in government shelters by yesterday evening.

The storm prompted the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue its highest-level rain disaster warning, saying "unprecedented" downpours were expected.

"The water came up higher than my head in the house," Hajime Tokuda, a finance professional living in Kawasaki near Tokyo told AFP.

He moved to his family's home nearby, but that flooded too and they had to be rescued by boat.

In Saitama's Higashi Matsuyama city, northwest of Tokyo, rice and flower farmers were counting their losses, with water submerging warehouses full of freshly harvested

produce.

"We never had a flood like this before in this neighbourhood," said one farmer, who declined to give his name.

"I don't know where to start cleaning this mess."

The storm brought travel chaos during a long holiday weekend in Japan, grounding flights and halting local and bullet train services.

Yesterday, train services began resuming and operations also slowly restarted at the two airports serving the capital, although many flights were cancelled.

But some lines remained halted, with aerial footage in Naganu showing rows of bullet trains partially submerged by flooding.

The storm also caused havoc for the sports world, delaying Japanese Grand Prix qualifiers and forcing the cancellation of two Saturday Rugby World Cup matches.

Yesterday morning, organisers cancelled a third fixture -- Namibia-Canada -- but gave the go-ahead to three others including a crunch Japan-Scotland game in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Scotland faced elimination if the match was cancelled and had threatened legal action if it was not played.

Importers cash in on legal loopholes

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done at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), popularly known as Science Laboratory, in compliance with the Import Policy.

The CCH had decided to send the samples to BCSIR for tests on August 27 and know if the samples contained any antibiotics, including two specific ones -- nitrofurantoin and chloramphenicol -- and by-products of pigs and cattle.

But following the HC order, it asked the laboratory not to test for the presence of "porcine and bovine derivatives."

Contacted, Customs Commissioner Fakhru Alam said they had withdrawn the request for the tests for swine and bovine by-products.

The Fish Feed Rules 2011 formulated under the 2010 Fish Feed Act has a long list of prohibited substances that fish feed might be contaminated with. The rules,

however, allow a maximum limit of 25 percent MBM in fish feed.

Experts, however, point out that that rule was negated after the ban on MBM imposed by the commerce ministry. They also suspect this was a case of MBM being disguised as fish feed.

As for the major arguments against the tests, the Bangladesh Aqua Product Companies Association in a written document said the test used for identifying presence of bovine and swine elements was highly sensitive and the results would be positive even for cases where there was the slightest of contamination.

Meat and bone meal might not be forbidden in the exporting country and so if local and exportable goods are produced in the same set-up, contamination may happen.

There is a solution.

Prof Mohammad Riazul Islam, of the biochemistry and molecular biology department of Dhaka

University, said quantitative PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test could measure quantity of MBM resolving the confusion whether goods had negligible contamination or were made of the forbidden substances.

But for that a legal provision had to be in place for the test upon arrival of consignments at ports.

The Customs have appealed with the Appellate Division against the HC order and the hearing on it is scheduled for today.

Bus conductor

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he lives in Dhaka and works as a gardener there. His daughter is a school student in Baniachong.

The OC said the father filed a case against Manik with Madhabpur Police Station on Saturday night.

The accused was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

Canada vote pitches Trudeau into fight of his political life

AFP, Ottawa

The gloves have come off as Justin Trudeau struggles to hold onto his parliamentary majority heading into the last week of a tight campaign before Canada's October 21 general election.

The latest polls put his Liberals in a dead heat with the Conservatives, led by Andrew Scheer.

With only 32 percent support each, however, neither of the frontrunners is poised to win enough of the 338 seats up for grabs for an absolute majority in the House of Commons.

Barring a trip-up over the coming days, whoever wins the most votes may have to seek the backing of one or more minor parties to form the next government.

"Not since the 1980s have I seen an election campaign where the two major parties are so close, and where neither of them has really managed to captivate voters," said Christian Bourque of polling firm Leger.

"The Liberals' support is close to a historic low, which means Trudeau has not been able to convince enough progressive voters to stick with him," he told AFP.

"Meanwhile, the Conservatives have been unable to attract centrist voters (beyond their base) over to their side."

A lack of a defining issue, he noted, has been problematic for all parties in this election, but more so for the two mainstays that have led Canada since confederation in 1867.

"The traditional main parties are struggling to captivate, inspire and motivate voters to come out and cast a ballot," said Bourque.

The Liberals, who won 184 seats in the last election with 40 percent of the popular vote trouncing the Tories on 99 seats, have sought to make climate action a key issue this time.

Trudeau defended his record: introduction of a carbon tax to curb

Rid's Toxic

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apex court did yesterday.

Between June and August 2009, at least 28 children across the country died of renal failure which was allegedly caused by the paracetamol syrups and suspensions manufactured by Rid Pharma.

Samrat victim of political

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demanding his immediate release and proper treatment.

"My son is innocent. He is very sick. Please show mercy, release him and arrange better treatment for him," his 80-year-old mother Sayera Khatun Chowdhury appealed to the prime minister in a feeble voice at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

On October 6, Rab arrested former Jubo League south president Samrat, an alleged kingpin of Casino business, in Cumilla amid the ongoing crackdown on the casino and other illegal business.

Following a search at his Kakrail office later in the day, Rab at a press briefing said it seized two devices used for torturing people, a pistol with five bullets, two Kangaroo hides, 1,160 yaba tablets and 19 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

Later, a Rab mobile court sentenced Samrat to six months in jail for possessing wild animal hides and another six months for possessing liquor.

Two days later, he was admitted to a city hospital as he complained of chest pain. But he taken back to jail on Saturday.

"Samrat is your worker. He is like your son. As a mother, I am requesting you to forgive his faults and mistakes," said Samrat's sister Farhana Chowdhury while reading out a statement on behalf of her mother.

"Samrat underwent an open-heart surgery in 1999. He is working for the party even though he has been ill since then," she said, adding, "He is not an infiltrator into the party."

The family gave a detailed account of Samrat's involvement in the Awami League politics and his role in anti-autocracy movement and torment he went through "during the BNP regime in 1991."

"He is the ideal soldier of the Father of the Nation," Samrat's sister said.

"Samrat had not been at his office for 10 days before his arrest. His office was unguarded. There was no liquor, yaba pills and pistol in the office. We suspect it is nothing but a part of a staged drama," the mother alleged.

The family claimed that Rab did not get any drugs from where Samrat was arrested. He was taken to his Kakrail office in the capital where law enforcers searched his office for over four hours, but no journalist was allowed to the office during the search.

"During live telecast [from outside], they saw some law enforcers entering

global warming, a strong economy with near-record low unemployment, and new trade pacts with Europe and Pacific nations, as well as the United States and Mexico.

The Conservatives, meanwhile, have stood alone among all of the parties in pledging austerity measures to return to a balanced budget within five years.

With time running out to sway voters, what started as polite discourse over policies turned to mudslinging.

Trudeau evoked the boogeymen of past and current Conservative parties, accusing Scheer and his Tories of fostering "politics of fear and division" and secretly planning to slash billions in social and infrastructure spending.

The full Conservative platform was only released late Friday, just before the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend.

Scheer retorted that Trudeau is a "compulsive liar," "a phoney and a fraud."

He raised Trudeau's wearing of blackface makeup, his meddling in the criminal prosecution of engineering giant SNC-Lavalin and his firing of the nation's first indigenous attorney general "for not going along with his corruption."

"Who do you trust to put more money in your pockets so you can get ahead?" Scheer said at a campaign stop on Saturday.

Scheer, untested since taking the reins of his party two years ago, has struggled to overcome his bland image of a minivan-driving dad of five trying to take down the Trudeau dynasty.

Anwarul

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service in 1983.

He became secretary on January 31, 2013 and senior secretary on July 13, 2017. He is also the ex-officio executive director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

Before this, he worked in the cabinet division as additional secretary.

He joined Bridges Division under the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges as secretary (in-charge) from November 13, 2011.

Anwarul Islam earned his BSS (hons) and MSS in social welfare from the University of Dhaka. He also holds a postgraduate diploma in development planning.

BNP leader

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about intelligence and law enforcement agencies by email".

Rapid Action Battalion after arresting him handed him over to police, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

Sub-inspector Abu Saied of Rab-4 filed the case accusing Hafiz and Col (ret'd) Ishaq Mian, the chief of BNP Chairperson's Security Force, with the police station.

Col Ishaq was arrested the same day and remanded for seven days.

In the case statement, SI Abu Saied said Col Ishaq sent an email to an unidentified person named Hiren Mukharjee on May 2 this year, in which he gave "false, misleading, fabricated, and ill-motivated information" on the role of law enforcers, administration, and intelligence agencies in the December 30 national election.

"Through his activities, he tried to undermine law and order by creating instability and tarnishing the country's image," the statement read.

It was also stated that his activities were part of an ill-attempt to destabilise the country by creating chaos in the armed forces.

During interrogation, Col Ishaq told Rab that Maj Hafiz, one barrister M Sarwar Hossain and some unnamed people were involved, according to the statement.

Yesterday, Sub-inspector Nure Alam of Pallabi Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, produced Maj Hafiz before the court and sought a seven-day remand.

In the remand prayer, the officer said Maj Hafiz should be interrogated to unearth the mystery behind the incident and know the whereabouts of accused on the run.

The court rejected the prayer after defense lawyers argued for bail and said their client was not involved in the incident.