

14 feared dead at flooded nursing home in Japan

More than 200,000 residents urged to evacuate as record rainfall triggers massive floods and landslides

AFP | Tokyo

Fourteen people were feared dead at a nursing home in western Japan Saturday as record rainfall triggered massive floods and landslides, forcing authorities to issue evacuation advisories for more than 200,000 residents.

The victims were found “in cardio-respiratory arrest” at the facility for elderly people that was flooded after a nearby river broke its banks, governor Ikuo Kabashima from the western region of Kumamoto told reporters.

Authorities in Japan often use that term before a doctor officially certifies death.

“The Self-Defence Forces have launched rescue operations,” Kabashima said, adding that three others at the home were suffering from hypothermia.

Some 60 to 70 people were in the home as water rushed in to the second floor Saturday morning, public broadcaster NHK said.

Local officials separately said another person was also found in cardio-respiratory arrest in landslides in Kumamoto. They



The Kuma River rises with heavy rain in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, western Japan

had previously said two were feared dead.

Elsewhere in Kumamoto, one person was seriously injured and nine others were missing while about 100 people were stranded as roads were cut off by floods and landslides, NHK reported.

The nation’s weather agency downgraded rain warnings by one notch from the highest emergency level in Kumamoto and nearby Kagoshima, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

urged local people to be “on maximum alert”.

Abe ordered 10,000 troops on stand-by for immediate deployment to join rescue and recovery operations, pledging the central government would “do its best to take emergency measures, prioritising people’s lives”.

‘It’s so scary’

Television footage showed vehicles swamped at car parks near a flooding river, while several bridges were washed away. “I can’t evacuate as a road turned into a river. It’s so scary,” a female resident told NHK.

Haruka Yamada, a 32-year-old local resident, told Kyodo News: “I saw large trees and parts of houses being washed away and heard them crashing into something. The air is filled with the smell of leaking gas and sewage.”

Aerial footage showed a resident being lifted with a rope from a roof to a military helicopter as an entire town was awash with muddy water.

A massive landslide destroyed several houses with rescuers searching for missing people through half-buried windows.

“We have issued evacuation orders after record heavy rain,” said Toshiaki Mizukami, another official for Kumamoto prefecture.

“We strongly urge people to take action to protect their lives as it’s still raining quite heavily,” he told AFP.

Kyodo said more than 203,000 residents in Kumamoto and Kagoshima were advised to evacuate their homes.

Some train services have been suspended in the region, while more than 8,000 households lost power.

News in brief

Canada’s ethics watchdog said he has launched an investigation into Justin Trudeau, after a controversial contract to manage a major government program was awarded to a charity with links to the prime minister’s family. Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion tweeted that he had “informed” Trudeau of the decision. His investigation is confidential and will be the subject of a report once it is completed.



North Korea does not feel the need to have talks with the United States, which would be nothing more than “a political tool” for Washington, a senior North Korean diplomat said, ahead of a U.S. envoy’s visit to South Korea. Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said negotiations would not work out between Washington and Pyongyang and there will be no change in North Korea’s policy.

North Korea says no need to sit down with US for talks

Mexican soldiers kill 12 in cartel clash near border

Violent border city of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas state security officials said, in another instance of mass murders that have driven Mexico’s homicides. Officials said armed gunmen clad in military-style uniforms attacked soldiers from the 16th Regiment in a neighborhood near the airport around dawn. The military seized eight AR-15 type weapons, one AK47, and two .50 caliber Barrett sniper rifles at the scene, officials said in a statement.

Mexican soldiers killed 12 alleged drug cartel members wearing military gear in the

US aircraft carriers conduct drills in South China Sea

Two US aircraft carriers have carried out drills in the South China Sea, a US Navy spokesman said, after the Pentagon expressed concerns over Chinese military exercises around a disputed archipelago. The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan conducted dual carrier operations in the waterway to “support a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the spokesman said.



The girlfriend of President Donald Trump’s eldest son has tested positive for coronavirus. Kimberly Guilfoyle, a former Fox News television personality who is dating Donald Trump Jr, had traveled to South Dakota to see the US president’s Fourth of July speech and celebration fireworks at Mount Rushmore.

Voters in the Dominican Republic are set to defy rising coronavirus infections today to choose a new president in an election that could end 16 years of unbroken rule by the center-left Dominican Liberation Party. Opposition candidate Luis Abinader is favorite, having taken a commanding lead in opinion polls despite being forced to abandon his campaign after he tested positive for COVID-19.

Donald Trump Jr’s girlfriend coronavirus positive

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The nation’s weather agency downgraded rain warnings by one notch from the highest emergency level in Kumamoto and nearby Kagoshima, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged local people to be “on maximum alert”

Court convicts Amnesty Turkey ex-leaders on terror charges

AFP | Istanbul

Amnesty International Turkey said two of its former leaders were convicted on “terrorist” charges by an Istanbul court in a case reflecting mounting official pressure on civil society.

The trial of 11 human rights activists became a symbol of the crackdown on critics after the 2016 failed attempt to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Idil Eser, former Amnesty Turkey director, was among three people sentenced to 25 months for “helping a terrorist organisation”.

Ex-Amnesty International Turkey chair Taner Kilic was sentenced to six years and three months for “membership of a terrorist organisation”, Amnesty Turkey said on Twitter.

They are free pending appeal.

The court acquitted seven other activists including Peter Steudtner, a German citizen, and Ali Gharavi, who is Swedish.

Sudan says talks on Nile dam resumed with Egypt, Ethiopia



Water flows through Ethiopia’s Grand Renaissance Dam as it undergoes construction work on the river Nile

AFP | Khartoum

Sudan announced the resumption of talks with Egypt and Ethiopia to resolve the long-running dispute over Addis Ababa’s construction of a mega-dam on the Nile River.

The three countries have been at odds after multiple rounds of talks over the years failed to produce a deal on the operation and filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Ethiopia says the project is essential for its development, while Egypt and Sudan worry about access to vital water supplies from the Nile.

“The negotiations over the renaissance dam between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan were resumed this after-

noon via video conference,” Sudan’s water ministry said in a statement.

Talks last month broke down after the three countries failed to reach any compromise.

The ministry said Friday’s talks were held with the mediation of South Africa, the current chair of the African Union.

Downstream Egypt and Sudan are under pressure to reach a deal before Ethiopia goes ahead with plans to fill the dam.

Last week, Cairo and Khartoum said Addis Ababa will delay filling its dam until a comprehensive deal is reached. Ethiopia however said it was on schedule to begin the filling within weeks but vowed to try resolving its dispute.

Global

Covid-19 Cases:

11,291,757

Deaths

530,956

Recovered:

6,405,139

New cases

+109,181

New deaths

+2,584

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Saudi Arabia	205,929	+4,128	1,858	+56	143,256	60,815	2,295	5,915
UAE	50,857	+716	321	+3	39,857	10,679	1	5,142
Kuwait	49,303	+631	365	+5	39,943	8,995	158	11,544
Oman	45,106	+1,177	203	+10	26,968	17,935	116	8,833
Egypt	72,711		3,201		19,690	49,820	41	711
Qatar	99,183	+530	123	+2	90,387	8,673	176	35,324

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	2,918,050	+145	132,209
Brazil	1,550,176	+155	63,409
Russia	674,515	+168	10,027
India	672,695	+610	19,279
Spain	297,625		28,385
Peru	295,599		10,226
Chile	288,089		6,051
UK	284,900	+67	44,198
Mexico	245,251	+654	29,843
Italy	241,419	+21	34,854
Iran	237,878	+148	11,408
Pakistan	225,283	+68	4,619
Saudi Arabia	205,929	+56	1,858
Turkey	204,610	+20	5,206

Figures as of closing