



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is received by Muna Duzdar, state secretary in the Federal Chancellery in Austria, and Md Abu Zafar, Bangladesh Ambassador to Austria, at the International Airport of Vienna yesterday. Hasina is on a two-day visit there to attend a conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

PHOTO: PMO

Chief justice warns law ministry

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imposing a travel restriction on the 17 lower court judges. The circular said the apex court was not consulted about sending the judges abroad.

The law ministry had earlier decided to send around 540 lower court judges to Australia in phases to receive training at a university on different issues, including cyber crime, counter terrorism and climate change.

A memorandum of understanding between Bangladesh law ministry and Australia's Western Sydney University was signed in Dhaka on March 28 in this regard.

As part of the initiative, 17 judges were to travel to Australia later this month.

During yesterday's proceedings, Attorney General Mahubey Alam yet again moved a time plea seeking two more weeks for the government to issue a gazette notification on the rules determining conduct and discipline of lower court judges.

After the AG moved the petition, the chief justice said, "We don't know whether to laugh or cry. Forty-five years have passed after the country's independence, but some irregularities and faults are still there... We want to put a system in place."

"We have extended cooperation to the executive by allowing judicial officials to work [for the executive] on deputation so that the executive can work smoothly. If we withdraw them from deputation, the executive cannot do anything. Don't agitate the judiciary," SK Sinha mentioned.

It would be better if there is "less misunderstanding", he pointed out.

The CJ also noted that law ministry officials have been trying to create a distance between the judiciary and the executive by giving misinterpretation of law.

"If you don't know a law, you seek interpretation of the law from us [the SC]. The Supreme Court is the author-

ity to give interpretation of law under the constitution. The government sought opinion from the Supreme Court to determine the mode of trial of the BDR carnage. And the Supreme Court gave its opinion," he said.

Justice Sinha further said if the government sends a file to the president and requests him to approve it, he gives the nod. And if the government requests him not to endorse anything, he doesn't.

"If the law ministry officials give any interpretation of law and think that they are correct, that would be a serious mistake on their part," he added.

The apex court adjourned the hearing on the case for two weeks.

Earlier on several occasions, the top court had expressed dissatisfaction and disappointment at the government's non-issuance of a gazette notification determining the conduct and disciplinary rules for lower court judges.

North Korea again

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Korea "will be solved".

"North Korea has shown great disrespect for their neighbor, China, by shooting off yet another ballistic missile... but China is trying hard!" Trump said in a tweet.

The US leader has urged China, the North's sole major ally and key trade partner, to do more to press Pyongyang to curb its missile and nuclear programmes.

South Korea's military said the Scud-type missile travelled for 450 km (280 miles). Japan said it was estimated to have fallen into its exclusive economic zone, extending 200 nautical miles from the coast.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe swiftly condemned the test -- the second time this year that a North Korean missile

has fallen close to its shores -- vowing concerted action with the US.

"We will never tolerate North Korea's continued provocations that ignore repeated warnings by the international community," Abe told reporters.

"As agreed during the G7 summit, the North Korean problem is the international community's top priority."

CONFLICT CATASTROPHIC
The North has been stepping up efforts towards its ultimate goal -- developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that can deliver a nuclear warhead to the continental US.

Despite Trump's strident warnings of possible military intervention, Secretary of Defense James Mattis said in an interview which aired Sunday before the launch that a war with

North Korea would be "catastrophic".

"The North Korean regime has hundreds of artillery cannons and rocket launchers within range of one of the most densely populated cities on Earth, which is the capital of South Korea," Mattis told CBS News.

"This regime is a threat to the region, to Japan, to South Korea. And in the event of war, they would bring danger to China and to Russia as well."

"But the bottom line is, it would be a catastrophic war if this turns into a combat, if we're not able to resolve this situation through diplomatic means."

Mattis declined to say what kind of action from Pyongyang would constitute a "red line" for Washington, saying the administration needs "political manoeuvre room."

Cyclone poised to strike

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Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by storm surges of 4-5 feet height.

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, and their offshore islands and chars will come under the great danger signal number 10.

Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars will come under the danger signal number eight.

Officials at the Dhaka Met office said this was the first time the great danger signal number 10 was hoisted at maritime ports since the cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh in November 2007.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) suspended launch services on all routes across the country from Dhaka.

Launch services remained suspended since 2:00pm yesterday, Joyanal Abedin, joint director of BIWTA, told The Daily Star.

The district administrations concerned took precautionary measures to reduce damages in the event of a cyclone.

The authorities evacuated thousands of people from the coastal areas in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni and their offshore islands as the districts might be worst affected.

In Cox's Bazar, the authorities made announcements through loudspeakers since morning, asking people to move to cyclone shelters and other safer places.

The Met office asked all fishing boats and trawlers at the north-Bay and deep sea to stay in shelters until further notice.

CTG PORT SUSPENDS OPERATIONS
The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) suspended port operations around 6:00pm yesterday.

CPA Secretary Omar Faruq said loading and unloading of goods from the vessels anchored at the port jetties and the outer anchorage were suspended around noon.

The CPA put the port on its own highest security alert (alert No-4) after the Met office asked the maritime ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to hoist great danger signal number seven, he told The Daily Star.

Besides, loading and unloading of bulk goods and containers from vessels

both at the port jetties and at the outer anchorage were suspended by around noon.

All the 24 vessels berthed at the port jetties were repositioned to the outer anchorage. With the 24, a total of 100 vessels were at the outer anchorage in the evening, Faruq added.

Wing Commander Rezaul Kabir, airport manager at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, said flight operations at the airport would remain suspended from 5:45am to 2:00pm today.

PREPARATIONS CONTINUE
The government has taken all out measures to provide support to the affected people in the event of a cyclone.

The district administrations held meetings yesterday afternoon and took necessary measures to deal with the possible disasters.

In a meeting, Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Zillur Rahman Chowdhury said a total of 479 cyclone shelters in the city and coastal upazilas were opened since morning. The shelters can accommodate 4,45,880 people.

"If required, shelters will be set up in schools and colleges," said the DC.

He said adequate dry food have been stored for affected people.

The Chittagong district administration opened control rooms at upazila level and a central control room at the DC office. People can call the central control room at 031-611545.

Speaking at the meeting, Chittagong District Civil Surgeon Azizur Rahman Siddique said leave of all doctors was suspended.

A total of 284 medical teams, each comprising a doctor and two assistants, were put on standby with medicines at union level. The control room of the civil surgeon's office can be reached at 031-634843.

MANY UNWILLING TO MOVE
Zitu Bonik of Chittagong's Kattali area said they would move to a cyclone shelter only after the storm hit the district.

"Most people in our locality are staying indoors as the weather is still not stormy," he told The Daily Star last night.

Mohammad Ali of North Patenga said it was pointless going to a cyclone shelter hours before a cyclone hits.

"We have valuables in our homes and we don't want to leave those behind as the weather is not stormy yet."

Meanwhile, the Sitakunda upazila administration with the help of police forced nearly 100 people of Sonachhori village to move to a nearby cyclone shelter, said Executive Magistrate Ruhul Amin.

COX'S BAZAR, BHOLA, BARGUNA
The Cox's Bazar district administration started evacuating people from coastal areas in the morning. The authorities opened 538 cyclone shelters with a total capacity of 5 lakh people.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Ali Hossain, also the chairman of the district disaster management committee, said announcements were made through loudspeakers since morning asking people to move to safer places.

Dozens of schools in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Chakaria, Kutubdia, Ulkhia, Pekua, Moheshkhali, Ramu and Teknaf upazilas would be used as emergency shelters, said Cox's Bazar Additional Deputy Commissioner Kazi Md Abdur Rahman.

According to district administration sources, 88 medical teams and around 21,000 volunteers were ready for any emergency response.

In Bhola, the district administration

made announcements through loudspeakers in all upazilas, warning people about the Cyclone Mora. Seven control rooms were opened to monitor the situation, said the Bhola DC.

Over 500 cyclone shelters were opened and people were reaching the centres.

The volunteers of Cyclone Preparedness Programme and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society would be ready for any emergency support in the district.

In Barguna, 98 cyclone shelters were opened, said Kishor Kumar Sardar, deputy director of Barguna Cyclone Preparatory Programme.

Some 6,330 volunteers were ready to launch rescue operations anytime, he added.

Mostafa Quader, president of Fishing Trawler Owners Association, said only around 60 fishing trawlers out of 200 reached Pathargata Fishing Ghat in Barguna by afternoon.

Most of the trawlers, which went to deep sea for fishing, were not aware of the cyclone, he added.

Our correspondents in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali and Jhalakathi contributed to this report.



A Chittagong City Corporation employee, left, goes about warning locals that they should move to safety in Patenga yesterday with Cyclone Mora bearing down on the area. Some men are moving their makeshift shops from the Patenga beach to a safer place.



PHOTO: STAR/ANURUP KANTI DAS

HC orders police to explain why they did it

FROM PAGE 1

Police and Chhatra League activists went in action to disperse them, leaving some students injured. The protesters then took positions near the residence of the JU vice-chancellor and allegedly damaged some valuable things.

JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique filed a vandalism case with Ashulia Police Station, accusing 30 named and over 20 unnamed people. Later, police showed 42 JU students including Nazmul arrested in the case.

In its ruling, the HC also asked the authorities to explain why handcuffing Nazmul during his treatment should not be declared illegal.

The home secretary, inspector general of police and deputy inspector general of police of Dhaka range, superintendent of police of Dhaka and the OC of Ashulia police have been made respondents to the rule.

Contacted, OC Mohsinul said police had the authority to handcuff any arrestee if they suspected that he would

flee.

Action will be taken against policemen if found guilty in a probe of wrongdoing, he added.

Meanwhile, "Shikkhak Shikkharthi Oikya Mancha (Teachers-Students Unity Platform) yesterday gave five days' ultimatum to the university authority for fulfilling demands that the case filed against students be withdrawn and the authority bear the expenses of the treatment of injured students, punish those who had carried out attacks on

students during their protest and ensure normalcy in the university.

The Oikya Mancha issued the ultimatum following a meeting with JU Vice-chancellor Dr Farzana Islam.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rayhan Rhyne, spokesperson of the Oikya Mancha, said they hoped the university authority would take proper measures to fulfill their demands.

"We will announce our next course of action, including a human chain, if the demands are not met," he said.

NAZMUL'S STATEMENT

As he fell sick in front of the VC's residence, he attempted to go to the university's medical centre with his friends.

"But police didn't let me go from the VC's residence to the medical centre for around 40 minutes. Following a teacher's request police however allowed me to go to the medical centre with one of my friends.

"When I reached the medical centre, two Chhatra League activists locked me inside a room while a doctor was treating

me at the time. Later the Chhatra League activists told me that a teacher wanted to talk to me."

Four to five people then forced him into an ambulance. He blacked out.

When Nazmul regained consciousness, he found himself lying on a bed at Enam Medical College Hospital with handcuffs put on one of his hands.

Earlier on Sunday, one of Nazmul's friends said police forced him to get admitted to the Enam hospital so that they could arrest him.