

Furious 'Fani' poised to hit

To lash India's east coast today before heading towards southwestern Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Cyclone Fani, which has turned into a "very severe cyclonic storm", is likely to make landfall in India's Odisha this afternoon and shake southwestern Bangladesh in the evening.

Coastal districts in the southwest are feared to be affected by the "peripheral" effect of Fani, the Met office said.

"We think the cyclone will start crossing Bangladesh tomorrow evening [this evening] and remain in the country's territory until Saturday morning," said Shamsuddin Ahmed, director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

However, he added that this was not

certain as the cyclone could change its course.

The Met office has asked Mongla and Payra port authorities to hoist "danger signal-7", which means a storm with wind speeds between 62kph and 88kph is likely to pass over or near the areas.

Chittagong Port was asked to hoist "danger signal-6", which is a less severe warning.

Last night, the wind speeds within 74km from the eye of the storm was between 160kph and 180kph.

The cyclone is likely to cause five- to six-foot high storm surges, the Met office said. Heavy rain is expected.

Following an inter-ministry meeting at the Secretariat yesterday, the government decided to move

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Fishing trawlers moored on the bank of the Mohipur river in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila yesterday as asked by the authorities. According to the Met office, cyclone Fani is likely to cross India's Odisha coast and then reach Khulna and adjoining southwestern part of Bangladesh this evening.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Saudi road crash kills 10 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 Bangladeshis were killed and seven others injured in a road accident near the Saudi capital of Riyadh yesterday morning.

Fakhrul Islam, second secretary (press) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh, said the accident occurred when a minibus, carrying the workers from Dammam to Madina, fell into a roadside ditch after one of the wheels burst.

The catering company, which employed the workers, was taking them to their new work premises in Madina, he told The Daily Star over phone yesterday evening.

Of the seven injured,

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THE PATH OF FANI



ROHINGYA RETURN

Take a tough stance now

Experts urge Dhaka, as joint groups meet today

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh should change its approach in dealing with Myanmar, as repatriation of Rohingyas has almost stalled since Myanmar is not creating the conditions required for their return, international relations experts said.

Dhaka should communicate that it has proved its humanitarian responsibilities by sheltering a million Rohingyas, including the 750,000, who have fled the

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1m Rohingyas at severe health risk

Air, water pollution at squalid refugee camps are to blame, finds a new int'l study

PORIMOL PALMA

Some one million Rohingyas face serious health risks due to acute air and water pollution in the cramped camps of Cox's Bazar, says a new study that assessed environmental conditions in one of the world's largest refugee settlements.

The use of firewood as the main fuel in the small tents with no ventilation facilities, high frequency of vehicular movement, proximity of drinking water points to latrines and absence of a proper waste management are the main factors posing danger to the refugees.

Diarrhoea, fever, jaundice, cough and skin, heart and respiratory diseases have become some of the very common health problems in the camps, said the study.

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463 breaches of freedom of speech right

Says Article 19 report on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 463 violations of freedom of speech occurred in the country last year, according to a human rights organisation.

Of them, some 51 percent involved journalists, Article 19 said in its annual report yesterday.

The UK-based organisation, which defends and promotes freedom of expression and freedom of information,

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Facilitating the largest ever Foreign Direct Investment into Bangladesh

Standard Chartered

Driving investment for a better future together

Standard Chartered congratulates JTI, Akij and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) on the successful closure of the single largest instance of Foreign Direct Investment into Bangladesh.

We are proud to be the sole advisor to this transaction, upholding our commitment to remain a partner in progress for the country.



This historic foreign investment transaction is a testament to the political and economic stability of the country and sustained pace of economic growth. We are committed to enhance the investment environment of the country and promote the investment opportunities that Bangladesh holds for foreign investors. JTI's investment in Bangladesh will certainly get across the message of Bangladesh's development dynamics and its readiness for bigger business and will augment investor confidence and of course it will be a catalyst for further FDI inflows.

Kazi M Aminul Islam

Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)



We are very pleased to be a part of this landmark transaction and help the nation by actualising the largest FDI into Bangladesh till date. We are confident that this will serve as a strong impetus to the economy and in turn, encourage further growth and investment.

Sheikh Nasir Uddin

Chairman, Akij Group



JTI has a track record of bringing world-class Japanese quality and innovation to the markets we enter through investing in people, our brands, and introducing international standards and practices in all aspects of the business. We look forward to very exciting times in Bangladesh.

Max Lobachev

Managing Director, JTI Bangladesh



Standard Chartered is proud to be the sole advisor for the largest foreign investment ever, of Bangladesh till date. The sponsorship of our regulators was vital in closing the transaction; hence I must extend my gratitude to Mr. Kazi M Aminul Islam, Executive Chairman of BIDA; Mr. Fazle Kabir, Governor of Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Chairman of NBR; and their colleagues for the outstanding support. We are grateful to our client for making us a part of this landmark deal. Investments are a key driver to the Country's progress towards an advanced economy and Standard Chartered is fully committed to supporting this development aspiration.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy

Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bangladesh

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