

INTRODUCING **DOUBLE CHARGE** Porcelain Tiles

AKU CERAMICS
Promise of Perfection

Contact: 01713998704

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

BERGER Weather Coat
ANTIDIRT SUPREME 5 YEARS WARRANTY
WATERPROOFING

REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 292 | KARTIK 27, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RABUL AWAL 14, 1441 HURI | 20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00

"We do not want to be extorted, we do not want to be under pressure, we do not want to be in the front page in the newspaper globally."
GRAMEENPHONE CEO MICHAEL PATRICK FOLEY TELLS A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS PAGE 16



"The anti-graft drive is not only against Awami League [men], people of other political parties and the administration officials who accumulated wealth through graft will also face it."
AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDULL QUADER AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL



"Kelly and Tillerson confided in me... they weren't being insubordinate; they were trying to save the country."
FORMER US ENVOY TO UN NIKKI HALEY ON TOP TRUMP AIDES TRIED TO RECRUIT HER TO UNDERMINE THE PRESIDENT PAGE 8



26 die as Bulbul batters coasts

More than one lakh houses damaged by cyclone in 13 southern dists; power supply remains snapped

STAR REPORT

At least 26 people were killed in nine southern districts as Cyclone Bulbul ravaged through those in the past two days. Most of the victims were killed when trees fell on them. Some of the deaths were also attributed to drowning and collapsed homes, according to officials from the local administrations, police and health facilities.

Meanwhile, the coast guard, with the help of police and locals, yesterday recovered the bodies of nine fishermen from the Meghna river in Barishal.

Apart from the loss of lives, Cyclone Bulbul damaged over one lakh houses, uprooted thousands of trees and flooded many fisheries in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Barishal, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Chandpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj districts.

Around three lakh hectares of cropland was damaged in these coastal districts, the lower parts of which were inundated as the cyclone whipped up tidal surges four to five feet higher than usual tide.

Md Azmat Ali, from Baniashanta village of Khulna's Dacope upazila, has to now

live on an embankment as Cyclone Bulbul has completely destroyed his house. He found his house destroyed after returning from a cyclone shelter.

"We have collected some of our belongings and kept them on the embankment. I am now making a temporary shelter to live there with my [seven-member] family," he said.

Azmat said he lost not only his house but also his ripe Aman paddy on three bighas of land.

He had lost his house and all his belongings during Cyclone Sidr in 2007 and also in Cyclone Aila in 2009.

With memories of past cyclones still fresh, some experts had feared much worse, but improved early warning systems and a large number of shelters helped the authorities lessen the cyclone's impact.

In 2009, Bangladesh was hit by Cyclone Aila, which left over 200 people dead. Two years prior to that, Cyclone Sidr had ravaged the country, leaving a trail of nearly 4,000 bodies.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Enamur Rahman yesterday said the government's prompt response minimised the damage from "Bulbul".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A tin-roofed house severely damaged by a tree that fell on it during Cyclone Bulbul in Gopalganj's Bandabari village leaving a man dead. The storm claimed the lives of at least 25 others. Inset, a woman and her two children sitting near what remains of their home at a char in Chandpur.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/STAR

Sundarbans again the saviour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sundarbans has once again embraced a cyclone before the storm ripped through several districts in Khulna division.

However, primary assessments say Cyclone Bulbul has not taken a heavy toll on the coastal regions like before.

How the Sundarbans has saved the country from the ravaging storm was one of the most talked-about topics on social media in the last two days and a voice for protecting the forest was raised once again.

TOURISTS BANNED

The forest department has imposed a temporary ban on tourists in the Sundarbans to heal the wounds of the forest, Moeenuddin Khan, conservator of forest in Khulna circle, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Primarily, we are thinking of imposing a ban for at least one month and also a ban on fishing for 15 days. It will help the forest heal," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Myanmar sued for genocide

On behalf of OIC, the Gambia files the case with International Court of Justice seeking orders to stop atrocities on Rohingyas immediately

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Gambia has filed a case with the top court of the United Nations, accusing Myanmar of committing genocide against its Rohingya Muslim minority, more than two years after some 750,000 Rohingyas fled a military crackdown in the Rakhine State.

"We have just submitted our application to the ICJ under the Genocide Convention," Gambian Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou said at a news conference yesterday in The Hague, where the court is based.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, is the UN's top legal institution that rules on disputes between states.

The West African nation, which is



predominantly Muslim, has filed the case on behalf of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which has held a series of meetings to encourage its 57 members to support the case.

"The aim is to get Myanmar to account for its actions against its own people: the Rohingya. It is a shame for our generation that we do nothing while genocide is

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Rohingyas are a threat to regional security: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said 1.1 million Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh were not only a threat to the country's security, but also to the region's.

"I urge the world community to take appropriate action realising the gravity of the threat," she said while inaugurating the three-day "Dhaka Global Dialogue".

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, a government think tank, and India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) jointly organised the dialogue at Hotel InterContinental in the city.

Over 150 international participants are taking part in the dialogue on the theme "Growth, development and Indo-Pacific".

The premier said the current century is being considered the "Century of Asia" in terms of socio-economic development and prosperity. "I think that peace and harmony must be maintained for the prosperity of the region."

Hasina said the main goal of all the activities of the regional countries should be directed towards eradicating poverty and ensuring comfortable life for their people as



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

Tigers miss chance at history

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

"If we could have won the game and the series, I would have felt much better," young Bangladesh opener Mohammad Naim thus rued the Tigers' missed opportunity of making history in India on Sunday night.

The 20-year-old left-hander from Faridpur could have been the hero but his scintillating 81-run knock was overshadowed by India pacer Deepak Chahar recording the best ever T20I bowling figures of six wickets for seven runs in 3.2 overs in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

13 COASTAL DISTRICTS Rice growers, fish farmers take a hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cyclone Bulbul has affected huge areas of crops and fish farms in the southern coastal districts, according to preliminary reports by the government agencies concerned.

The cyclone, which swept over the southern belt, affected nearly 21,809 ponds and shrimp farms, causing farmers, in mostly Barishal and Khulna divisions, losses of Tk 43.21 crore, according to data of the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

Some 2,202 tonnes of fish, including 200 tonnes of shrimps, were washed away as the farms were inundated due to heavy rain and tidal surges during the cyclone.

Including the losses for the damage of farm infrastructures, total losses of fish farms were estimated at Tk 46.80 crore.

"It is a primary report. We will finalise the report after getting information from all field offices," said Umme Kulsum Ferdousi, district fisheries officer at the DoF.

Apart from fish and shrimp farms, the cyclone also affected 2.89 lakh hectares of area in the southern districts, according to preliminary data of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

THERE IS NO ADDRESS like *CONCORD*

DHANMONDI

GULSHAN

BANANI

SHYAMOLI

SHIDDHESWARI

BARIDHARA

CHATTOGRAM

SHANTINAGAR

10000+ HANDED OVER UNITS

44+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

HOTLINE 16594

CONCORD