

CYCLONE SITRANG 23 fishermen return home after being rescued in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three Bangladeshi fishermen, who were rescued by Indian Coast Guard after their trawler sank in the Bay during Cyclone Sitrang, have been handed over to their families.

Lt Commander Khandaker Munif Taqi, media officer of Bangladesh Coast Guard, said the handover took place on Thursday.

Due to bad weather caused by the cyclone on Monday, a technical glitch developed in the trawler's engine and at one stage, the trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal during the storm, the official said.

During that time, the 23 fishermen, holding drums and other objects, were floating in the sea.

A team of Indian Coast Guard while patrolling the area by an aircraft saw them and immediately provided them a life raft which helped the victims to stay afloat. The fishermen were rescued on Tuesday by an Indian Coast Guard ship.



With a 36-hour bus strike in force since yesterday morning, buses have been taken off Rangpur streets ahead of the BNP's rally in the divisional city today. People had to travel mostly by three-wheelers all day yesterday. The photo was taken in front of the Rangpur inter-district bus terminal.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Iceland's thriller-loving PM pens first crime novel

AFP, Reykjavik

Like many around the world, Iceland's prime minister delved into her hobby during the pandemic. Now, the crime novel she co-wrote with one of Iceland's most popular authors has just been published.

"Obviously, this is not something that I thought I would have any time to do", 46-year-old Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir told AFP at an event this week for the book's launch.

But it was "quite liberating to be working on this project during Covid", she said. "I don't have any other interests, this is my interest", she added with a laugh.

Global warming palpable for 96 percent of humans

Say researchers after studying 1,021 cities over last 12 months

AFP, Paris

Whether they realised it or not, some 7.6 billion people – 96 percent of humanity – felt global warming's impact on temperatures over the last 12 months, researchers have said.

But some regions felt it far more sharply and frequently than others, according to a report based on peer-reviewed methods from Climate Central, a climate science think tank.

People in tropical regions and on small islands surrounded by heat-absorbing oceans were disproportionately impacted by human-induced temperature increases

to which they barely contributed.

Among the 1,021 cities analysed between September 2021 and October 2022, the capitals of Samoa and Palau in the South Pacific have been experiencing the most discernible climate fingerprints, the researchers said in the report, released on Thursday.

Spiking temperatures in these locations were commonly four to five times more likely to occur than in a hypothetical world in which global warming had never happened.

Lagos, Mexico City and Singapore were among the most highly exposed major cities, with human-induced heat increasing health risks to millions.

Researchers at Climate Central, led by

chief scientist Ben Strauss, looked for a way to bridge the gap between planetary-scale global warming – usually expressed as Earth's average surface temperature compared to an earlier reference period – to people's day-to-day experience.

"Diagnosing climate fingerprints lets people know that their experiences are symptoms of climate change," Strauss told AFP. "It represents a signal and shows we must adapt."

Using seven decades of high-resolution daily temperature data from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and two dozen climate models, Strauss and his team created a tool – the Climate Shift Index.

Australia PM decries 'racially motivated' killing of Aboriginal boy

AFP, Sydney

Australia's prime minister yesterday expressed his sorrow at the killing of a 15-year-old Aboriginal boy, insisting that the attack was clearly "racially motivated".

The alleged murder of Cassius Turvey in the western city of Perth has sparked outrage nationwide, with protests planned and rights activists decrying what they said was another symptom of systemic racism.

Lamenting Turvey's death as a "terrible tragedy", Prime Minister Anthony Albanese insisted "we're a better country than that, and my heart goes out to the family and the friends".

Turvey died in hospital after a man allegedly jumped out of a vehicle, chased him and hit him on the head with a metal pole.

Be cautious

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the Myanmar Army to work together for improving the relations, conducting combined disaster management exercises and exchanging information.

He said the Rohingya people's long stay in Bangladesh might create security risks and stressed on quick repatriation to avert any such challenges in the future.

Earlier in December 2019, Bangladesh's then army chief Gen Aziz Ahmed visited Myanmar.

The delegation's visit to Dhaka takes place weeks after Myanmar military violated the border during clashes with armed rebel group Arakan Army.

Bangladesh summoned the Myanmar ambassador in Dhaka several times and also sought China's help in stopping such border violations.

At an event in Dhaka on October 26, Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming said the Chinese ambassador in Myanmar conveyed Bangladesh's message to Myanmar authorities and got positive feedback.

In 2017, about 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh amid a violent military crackdown. No repatriation has taken place yet.

JP lawmaker Ranga shown the door

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JP chairman is empowered to make any decision unilaterally.

As per the power, the JP chief can form, reconstitute, and scrap any committee at any level even if the action goes against the other parts of the JP charter.

The latest development in the main opposition would widen the rift between Quader and Raushan groups, JP insiders said.

After Ranga was relieved, Raushan, who is having medical treatment in Bangkok, in a statement said Quader made the decision, violating parliamentary rules and using the undemocratic power as the JP chairman.

"No change has been brought in the post of the opposition chief whip," she said.

Talking to this correspondent, Ranga said the JP chairman does not have any right to relieve him of the

post of opposition chief whip.

"Only the opposition leader can do it. But GM Quader is not the opposition leader; he is the deputy leader of the opposition."

Golam Moshi, political secretary to Raushan Ershad, yesterday told The Daily Star that Quader's decision of relieving Ranga was not correct.

"Ranga, a longtime leader of this party, has a huge contribution to this organisation. He is a tested, committed and veteran leader of the party."

"A leader like him cannot be relieved whimsically and on the basis of unilateral decision of a person," said Moshi, also former Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Also the lawmaker from Rangpur-1, Ranga in a discussion organised by Raushan group on October 23 vowed to oust Quader and JP Secretary General Mujibul

Haque Chunnun from the party as they were acting against Raushan.

The fresh conflict between Quader and Raushan, the wife of former president and JP founder HM Ershad, started brewing when she suddenly on August 31 convened the party's 10th council on November 26.

Sources at the JP told this correspondent that pro-Raushan group has planned to oust Quader from the party helm in the council and take its control.

On September 1, JP Parliamentary Party at a meeting decided to remove Raushan from the post of the opposition leader and a letter was submitted to the Jatiya Sangsad Speaker to this end.

On September 14, Quader, the younger brother of Ershad, relieved Ranga of all party posts, including that of presidium member of JP, for "siding with Raushan".

Skirting strike, many BNP men arrive early

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shelter in some abandoned buildings and in a field in Baniapara area after reaching the city around midnight on Thursday. They were resting on floors covered with plastic sheets.

Nahidul Islam, 65, came from Thakurgaon's Haripur along with 200 others.

"We hired buses but those later refused to come. Then we started travelling by four trucks and reached Rangpur city at 3:00am today [yesterday]."

He said they had puffed rice in the morning and would have khichuri for lunch. "The food has been arranged by Thakurgaon BNP. We will have it together."

Nahidul said the more obstacles the government would put up, the more people would join the rally.

Sultanul Ferdous, vice president of Thakurgaon BNP, said they arranged food for 3,000 people.

Mentioning that more party activists would reach the city today, he hoped the rally would be a success.

About 1,000 more people were staying at a house of late BNP leader Mashitir Rahman Jadu Mia.

Raihan Mia, a Jubo Dal leader from Panchagarh, said they hired three buses on October 14, but they refused come only a few hours before the planned start of the journey.

"Then we hired trucks and pickups in phases, but they all later declined. We started walking from Panchagarh. After walking for about an hour, we saw an empty bus. All of us boarded it and reached Rangpur around midnight on Thursday."

He said more party leaders and activists will reach Rangpur city this morning on some 300 motorcycles.

BNP activists from Thakurgaon left the district for Rangpur on Thursday midnight to join the rally. Treasurer of Thakurgaon BNP, Md Shariful Islam, said 120 vehicles, including buses and trucks, carrying party men have left for Rangpur.

Visiting the Thakurgaon district BNP office in the town around midnight on Thursday, this newspaper found that many

party activists carrying small bags gathered there.

Some vehicles were seen waiting nearby to take them to Rangpur.

BNP leaders, activists and supporters from Kurigram and Lalmonirhat started travelling towards Rangpur since Thursday afternoon by motorcycles, bicycles, and battery-run easy-bikes.

All trains travelling to Rangpur yesterday from Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, and Dinajpur were crowded, mostly with BNP men, said witnesses. Lalmonirhat District BNP President Asadul Habib Dulu told The Daily Star that the bus strike was called to obstruct BNP men from joining today's rally.

AZM Zahid Hossain, vice chairman of BNP and also a coordinator of the rally, said people from all districts around Rangpur are now waiting to join the meeting. He said, "The government used the leaders of the transport owners' platforms to enforce the strike."

Our correspondents in respective districts contributed to this report.

US House Speaker Pelosi's husband in hospital after assault

REUTERS, San Francisco

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband Paul Pelosi was assaulted during a break in at the couple's San Francisco home early yesterday and a suspect has been arrested, authorities said.

Paul Pelosi, 82, was taken to hospital and is expected to make a full recovery, Pelosi's office said.

The Democratic speaker, who is second in the succession line of the US presidency, was in Washington with her protective detail at the time of the assault, according to the US Capitol Police.

The Capitol Police said a motive for the attack was still under investigation.

Mobilisation for Ukraine complete: Russia

REUTERS

Russia yesterday announced it had finished calling up reservists to fight in Ukraine, having drafted hundreds of thousands of people in a month, with more than a quarter of them already sent to the battlefield.

The announcement appears to bring to a close a divisive mobilisation drive - Russia's first since World War Two - which had seen tens of thousands of men flee the country and gave rise to the first sustained public protests against the war.

"The task set by you of (mobilising) 300,000 people has been completed. No further measures are planned," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin at a televised meeting in the Kremlin. He said 82,000 had already been sent to the combat zone and the rest were training.

Nigeria beefs up security after 'terror' warning

AFP, Abuja

Nigeria yesterday said it had beefed up security and called for the public to be vigilant but calm after the United States and Britain warned of a high "terror" threat in the capital Abuja.

Without giving details on any specific threat, the US on Thursday ordered diplomats' families to leave Abuja due to what it called a "heightened risk of terrorist attacks."

The United States, Britain, Australia and Canada had issued warnings last weekend, although the three latter countries had not ordered any evacuation of staff or their families as of Friday.

Separately, the US warned this week of a possible "terrorist" attack in South Africa's largest city Johannesburg.

Wildcat bus strike

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a hospital. But he failed to go there as no buses left for Rangpur from Gaibandha.

"I am a heart patient... Who will take the responsibility, if I face any problem?" he asked our correspondent in Bogura.

Mizan, a resident of Balichara area of Rangpur city, his wife and three-year-old son went to Kamarpara bus station around 10:30am to travel to Dhaka. But he had to return home.

He said he did not know about the strike.

Businessman Sabbir Hossain and his friend Shahriar Sayeed of the Melananda area of Jamalpur went to Rangpur yesterday morning from Dhaka. They planned to return home the same day.

Around 9:30am, he went to the bus ticket counter but found it closed.

Dhaka University student Pankaj Kumar Roy went to the bus counter in Rangpur to come to Dhaka. He has an exam on Sunday.

He was desperately looking for a

bus ticket.

Transport workers were not happy either because of the strike.

Momin Mia, a helper of Shyamoli Paribahan, said, "I will not get the money to buy food. There's no money if there's no bus on the roads."

Aminul Islam, general secretary of Bogura Motor Owners Group, said they were only following the directives of Rangpur Divisional Motor Owners Association.

"We stopped the Rangpur-bound buses for the time being," he said.

On October 18, Khulna District Bus, Minibus, Coach and Microbus Owners' Association and Khulna Motor Sramik Union jointly called a strike from October 20 "demanding three-wheelers to be taken off the roads".

The BNP rally was held there on October 22.

On Wednesday, Barishal District Bus Malik Group called a strike on all routes to Barishal for November 4 and 5. A BNP rally is supposed to be held there on November 5.

Elon Musk takes control of Twitter

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tweeted Thierry Breton, the EU internal market commissioner, in response to Musk's "bird" message.

Musk said Twitter "cannot become a free-for-all hellscape where anything can be said with no consequences".

He had previously vowed to dial back content moderation and was expected to clear the way for former US president Donald Trump to return to the platform.

The then-president was blocked over concerns he would ignite more violence like the deadly attack on the Capitol in Washington to overturn his election loss.

"I am very happy that Twitter is now in sane hands, and will no longer be run by Radical Left Lunatics and Maniacs that truly hate our country," Trump said on his Truth Social platform yesterday.

Far-right users were quick to rejoice over the purchase on the network, posting comments such as "masks don't work" and other taunts, under the belief that moderation rules will now be relaxed.

"Free speech will always prevail," tweeted Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, prompting hundreds of mostly angry replies accusing her of hypocrisy.

Among Musk's first acts in power on Thursday were the reported firing of chief executive Parag Agrawal and other senior officials – though the

company did not reply to AFP's request for comment and Agrawal still listed himself as CEO on his Twitter profile.

Agrawal previously went to court to hold Musk to the terms of the deal, and the takeover came just before a deadline imposed by the judge.

Musk, who is using a combination of his own money, funds from wealthy investors and bank loans to finance the deal, has conceded he is overpaying for a company that has regularly posted eye-watering losses.

Twitter says it has 238 million daily users, dwarfed by the likes of Facebook's two billion, but has not been able to monetize in the same way as its rivals.

However, Twitter holds an outsized influence on public debate because it is the favoured platform for many companies, politicians, journalists and other public figures.

Musk, though, has expressed frustration at content moderation and critics fear his ownership will be seen as a greenlight for hate speech and misinformation.

Musk is already the boss of car firm Tesla and rocket company SpaceX and it is not clear what his Twitter role might be, though unconfirmed reports suggested he might become interim CEO.

The closure of the deal marks the culmination of a long back-and-forth between the billionaire and the social network.