



## WB concerned about project delays

Voices worries in latest country partnership framework

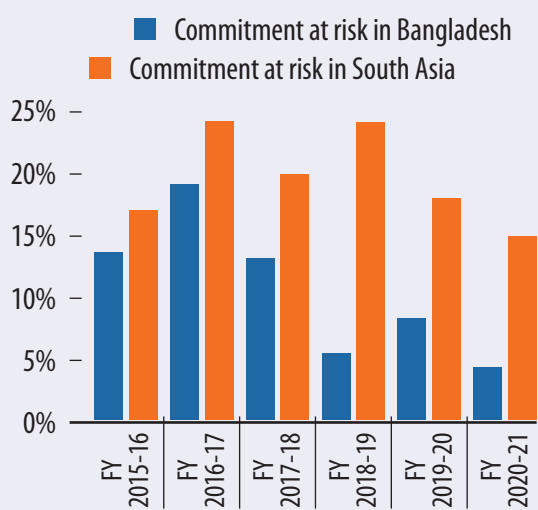
REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The more than seven years average project implementation period for Bangladesh between 2016 and 2021 presents a risk to the effective implementation of the next country partnership framework, said the World Bank in a report recently.

The internal government processes for project preparation and approval are "very complex and slow", said the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework for fiscal 2022-23 to fiscal 2026-27. The CPF was approved by the WB board on April 27.

Project implementation is currently hampered by

WB commitment at risk in Bangladesh remains much below the South Asian average (in %)



"incipient institutional arrangements, limited financial allocation for project readiness and implementation by the government, low execution for funds that are allocated and misalignment of policies and regulations".

Between fiscals 2015-16 and 2020-21, a total of 266 projects were implemented with WB financing, and on an average, it took more than two years to get a project approved by the government.

Project preparation in close collaboration between WB teams, the ministries and implementing agencies averages about one year between Concept Review and board approval of lending operations.

Delays during project preparation up to WB approval are often extended by another year (or more) by a complicated

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

A crane of Bangladesh Navy tries to recover a shipping container that fell off lorry and crushed a rickshaw on a road in Chattogram city's Patenga Khalpar area around noon yesterday. Two passengers of the three-wheeler were killed.

## Container falls off lorry, kills father, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly man and his son were crushed to death and another man was critically injured after an improperly fastened shipping container fell on them from a lorry in Chattogram yesterday afternoon.

Younus Mizi, 60, and his son Rahim Mizi, 30, were on a rickshaw returning home from a hospital when the 20-foot-long container loaded with goods fell on them in the Patenga Khalpar area, police said.

"It appears that the shipping container slid off the vehicle after a rope used to tie the container to the truck snapped," said Shakila Sultana, commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (port).

Sub Inspector Rupak Kanti Chowdhury of EPZ Police Station said, "The container was supposed to be tied with chains, but they used nylon rope. Besides, the container was placed in the middle of the 40 feet flatbed without the corner castings properly bolted.

"The rope broke when the lorry was moving and caused the tragedy," he said, adding that the lorry was going from Chattogram Port to Summit Alliance Port Limited Container Depot in Katghar.

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## Mocha may turn into a super cyclone

Says minister; it may hit Cox's Bazar-Myanmar coast Sunday

STAR REPORT

Mocha may turn into a cyclonic storm today and it may make landfall in Cox's Bazar and Myanmar coasts on Sunday, the Met office has said.

The meteorological departments in Bangladesh and India forecast that Mocha will further intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by this morning and a very severe cyclonic storm by midnight.

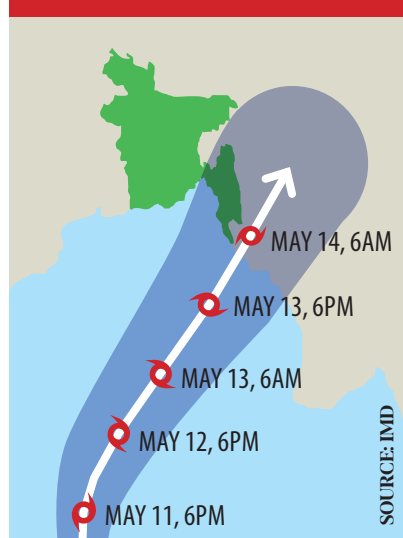
The government has advised farmers in the coastal region to harvest ripe paddy, mango and other farm produce to avoid damage by the cyclone.

The government also cancelled leaves and holidays of civil servants in those areas until further notice.

Enamur Rahman, state minister

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### CYCLONE TRACK



SOURCE: IMD

## Govt should stay neutral in city polls

Says CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal has said the government should play a neutral role so that the upcoming city polls can be a model for future elections.

"When we say the government, we don't mean the Awami League... We call the divisional commissioners, district commissioners, and police commissioners the government. They have to be neutral," the CEC said.

Awal was speaking at a dialogue with the candidates of Gazipur City SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 MORE ON PAGE 5

## Unrest in Pakistan as Imran indicted in graft case

5 killed in clashes; army called in; ex-PM placed on 8-day remand

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's government yesterday called in the army to help quell deadly unrest in the wake of the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, warning protesters against any further attacks on state installations.

At least five people have died in violence that has aggravated instability in the South Asian country of 220 million people as it grapples with a severe economic crisis and a delay to an International Monetary Fund bailout since November.

Khan - Pakistan's most popular political leader according to polls - was arrested in a land fraud case on Tuesday, prompting supporters to storm military PHOTO ON PAGE 12 SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



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