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16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE : Tk 15.00



B4

Designer pearls hold bright prospects



P8

The Zahangir model of navigating elections



P7

Asean will not give up on Myanmar peace



P3

Traders resist DNCC move to seal risky market

"I strongly condemn this wanton violence, in which both sides have trampled international humanitarian law, notably the principles of distinction..."

UN rights chief Volker Turk on Sudan fighting



With Cyclone Mocha inching forward, small ships from the Bay of Bengal have come to set anchor in the Karnaphali river yesterday as part of safety measures. Weather experts fear the cyclone, expected to hit the country on Sunday, may leave massive impacts on the coastal areas.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Coasts brace for Cyclone Mocha

STAR REPORT

Cyclone Mocha was gaining pace in the Bay of Bengal and turned into a severe cyclone before midnight yesterday with its eye moving further towards the Cox's Bazar-Myanmar coast at a speed of 8 kilometres per hour.

Weathermen said the cyclone sharing characteristics of Sidr, which devastated parts of the country in 2007, is still 1,180km away from Cox's Bazar coastline. It may make landfall on Sunday.

"Cyclone Mocha is expected to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm tomorrow [Friday]," Md Azizur Rahman, director of Bangladesh

	COX'S BAZAR	CHATTGRAM	NOAKHALI
Cyclone shelters	576	1,030	463
Volunteers	10,800	16,880	8,380

Meteorological Department (BMD), said in a press briefing yesterday afternoon.

A very severe cyclone is projected to have wind speeds ranging from 119kmph to 219kmph, while a severe cyclone will have wind speeds between 89kmph and 117kmph.

Cyclone Mocha is likely to hit coastal areas including Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Bhola, and Myanmar coasts on Sunday, according to the BMD director.

Coastal people can expect rainfall and gusty winds from tomorrow.

In a special bulletin issued around noon yesterday, the BMD said the cyclone was centred about 1,205km south-southwest of the Chattogram Port, 1,130km south-southwest of Cox's Bazar Port, 1,165km south-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Shelters being readied for Rohingyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In addition to the cyclone shelters already there for the Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar, other establishments are being readied to be temporarily used if needed when Cyclone Mocha hits the country, speakers at a coordination meeting said.

Conducted by the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) in its office yesterday, the meeting discussed the measures taken to ensure the safety of the Rohingyas in the Ukhiya and Teknaf refugee camps.

It was chaired by Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, joint secretary of RRRC in Cox's Bazar.

Hasanul Amin, deputy director of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, said they have around 3,400 volunteers at the ready. They, along with other organisations, will work on safe evacuation.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Imran Khan's arrest 'illegal'

Declares Pakistan SC, directs him to appear before it today

AGENCIES

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday declared the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan "invalid", in a ruling that came two days after his detention sparked deadly clashes and huge protests nationwide.

Khan was ordered to remain in the custody of the court under police protection for his own safety until his appearance at another court hearing today.

"Your arrest was invalid so the whole process needs to be backtracked," Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial told Khan at the hearing in the capital Islamabad.

"What we propose is that Islamabad police need to provide security, and he (Khan) will provide a list of his immediate family members and lawyers that should meet him at police lines headquarters," said Bandial.

He added that the headquarters, where Khan was taken into custody following his arrest, should instead be treated as a "residence".

Bandial denied Khan's request to return to his farm house on the outskirts of Islamabad.

"The court has ordered that he will remain in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



There should be no nonessential expenditure by the government."

MA Mannan
Planning Minister

On the first working day of fiscal 2022-23, the government rolled out a cocktail of austerity measures for its own administration.

But earlier in March, the government rolled back most of the austerity measures.

The centrepiece of the austerity stance was the ban on the purchase of vehicles, aircraft, helicopters, ships, boats or barges. That ban was lifted.

In the annual development programme, projects were classified into A, B and C categories. The A-category projects could go on as normal, while up to 75 percent of the allocation for the B-category projects could be spent. All C-category projects were put on hold.

Now, the B-category projects can spend up to 85 percent of their allocation, while the C-category projects that are nearing the end can proceed, as per the notification from the finance division.

While the entire revenue budget can now be spent, there are certain guardrails: 75 percent of the allocation for electricity, 50 percent of the allocation for training and 80 percent of the allocation for petrol, oil and lubricant, gas and fuel can be used.

The institutions can spend their allocations on entertainment, travel, training, stationery, electrical equipment and furniture, which they were barred from before. Only for essential and emergency purposes could they spend under these overheads and that too 50 percent of the allotted amount.

Honorariums for attending meetings of the project implementation committee, project steering committee, departmental project evaluation committee and departmental special project evaluation committee – were resumed too.

Land development as well as the construction of residential and non-residential buildings under the revenue budget, which were on pause for the austerity stance, were resumed.

However, the ban on foreign tours by government officials remains.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Even one of their own had to buy his release

DB men picked up CID officer, 6 others on robbery charges, then freed him, another after Tk 1.42cr bribe

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Detectives detained a police officer and six others on charges of robbery and took Tk 1.42 crore in bribes from them in 2020, found a home ministry probe.

The detainees were kept in custody at the Detective Branch (DB) office on the capital's Minto Road for a few days and made to pay the bribe, the probe adds.

The ministry probe found seven DB men involved and recommended departmental action against them more than five months ago, but it had not been done.

A team of DB officers detained sub-inspector Aksadud Zaman of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and six others on November 26, 2020, on charges of robbing a migrant worker of foreign currencies and valuables worth Tk 4.78 lakh on the Airport Road on October 19, 2020.

Migrant worker Roman filed a case with the Airport Police Station in this connection accusing unnamed criminals the next day.

At the DB office on November 26, DB Additional Deputy Commissioner (Airport zone) Kaysar Rizvi Korayshi told the detainees that if they could pay Tk 2 crore, he would talk to senior officers and let them off the hook, the report says.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A part of Hatirjheel is being filled up to make room for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, which will link Shahjalal International Airport and the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The project authorities are claiming that filling up is temporary and it would be cleared off after the expressway is constructed. The photo was taken from behind the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka hotel on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BUSINESS

GDP growth slows to 6.03% in FY23

The economy is estimated to have expanded at a slower-than-expected pace in 2022-23, said the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics yesterday, a figure that analysts describe as good in view of the ongoing volatile economic scenario.

The gross domestic product grew by 6.03 per cent in the fiscal year, said the national statistical agency based on its provisional data.

STORY ON B1