



MAN VERSUS NATURE ... Braving the fury of Cyclone Remal, social workers trying to protect an embankment on the Kapotakkho in Khulna's Koyra upazila yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Cyclones now last longer
Experts say this causes more rain

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Remal was part of a new trend of cyclones that take their time before making landfall, are slow-moving, and cause significant downpours, flooding coastal areas and cities.

Even though Remal started battering the Bangladesh coast since Sunday afternoon, its effects on the country's weather will remain until at least this afternoon, said the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

This means the storm will be hovering over Bangladesh for at least 45 hours. Cyclone Aila in 2009 hung around for 34 hours before disappearing.

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Remal leaves trail of havoc in its wake

At least 13 people killed in two days, 37 lakh affected in 19 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cyclone Remal has killed at least 13 people, destroyed more than 35,000 homes, and seriously affected more than 37 lakh people in 19 districts.

The storm, which made landfall near Khepupara of Patuakhali with wind speeds of up to 130kmph Sunday evening, turned into a deep depression yesterday and was moving north-eastwards.

The cyclone left behind a trail of destruction -- breached embankments, inundated neighbourhoods, and uprooted trees -- in 19 coastal districts of Barishal, Khulna, and Chattogram divisions.

Around 2.7 crore people were without power in Barishal and Khulna divisions, which caused around 15,000 cell towers to go offline.

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- 1.5 lakh homes destroyed or damaged
- Loss in fisheries sector over Tk 482 crore
- 2.7 crore left without power
- 15,000 cell towers offline

RAIN SINKS DHAKA, CTG

Many areas in Dhaka and Chattogram got submerged due to rain triggered by Cyclone Remal. In page 3, we look into the struggles of residents who were forced to navigate through waterlogged streets while facing severe transport crises.



MONEY LAUNDERING ACC presses charges against Bacchu, his wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday pressed charges against former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, his wife Shirin Aktar and six others over money laundering.

The charge sheet was submitted in a case filed over corruption and irregularities in the purchase of 30.25 katha of land in the capital's Cantonment Bazar area, under two land deeds, from Amin Ahmed, managing director of Capital Banani One Ltd, an ACC source told The Daily Star.

ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Nurul Huda filed the case with its integrated district office of Dhaka-1 on October 2 last year.

With this, the graft watchdog has so far submitted 60 charge sheets against Bacchu over alleged corruption.

In the case statement, the plaintiff said Bacchu bought

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BUSINESS

Fitch lowers Bangladesh rating

Fitch Ratings yesterday downgraded Bangladesh's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating to "B+" from "BB-" owing to the lingering weakening of the country's external buffers.

However, the outlook is stable, said the agency in a report.

Fitch said the downgrade of Bangladesh's ratings reflects the sustained weakening of the external buffers.

STORY ON B1



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