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## CYCLONE REMAL

# Losses estimated at over Tk 7,000cr

### Around 4 lakh people affected in 20 dists, shows ministry data

BAHARAM KHAN

Cyclone Remal has had a devastating impact on 20 districts, affecting 3,83,815 people and causing damages worth over Tk 7,000 crore, according to documents of the disaster management and relief ministry.

The cyclone claimed 18 lives and injured 2,503 people, and heavily impacted fisheries, roads, and housing.

The damage to the fisheries sector amounts to Tk 2,241.65 crore; while that to roads amounts to Tk 1,012.04 crore; and housing infrastructure to Tk 2,051.84 crore.

Md Mohibur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, at an event in the secretariat yesterday, said, "The government has so far estimated the losses caused by Cyclone Remal at Tk 7,000 crore. The overall damage report will be handed over to the prime minister tomorrow [today] to facilitate the next steps in

#### FINANCIAL DAMAGES

- Fisheries: Tk 2,241cr
- Housing: Tk 2,051cr
- Roads: Tk 1,012cr
- Bridges, culverts: Tk 748cr
- Agriculture: Tk 712cr

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Arshdeep Singh celebrates with Suryakumar Yadav one of his four wickets, which helped India restrict USA to 110 for 8 in their T20 World Cup match in New York yesterday. Yadav later scored 50 not out as India won by seven wickets to seal a Super 8 berth.

PHOTO: AFP

## Batters yet to pull their weight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Batting will be at the forefront of Bangladesh's agenda after consecutive underwhelming efforts going into their T20 World Cup Group D fixture against the Netherlands at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Kingstown today.

Bangladesh almost made a meal of their 124-run chase against Sri Lanka in their two-wicket win in Dallas and were on the wrong end of the results, falling short by four runs, when they had to chase 113 against South Africa in their second match in New York.

While the bowlers delivered excellent efforts in both matches, the batters, with the exception of in-form Towhid Hridoy, have largely misfired and failed to pull their weight.

Hridoy, Bangladesh's top run getter with 77, played a match-winning

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## Mujib's time in Kolkata was vital for his political upbringing

Goutam Ghose tells *Star* about his documentary

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The 1940s was a tumultuous period in Kolkata politically and economically. The man-made famine of 1943, the Hindu-Muslim riots and the great Calcutta killings ravaged the socio-economic fabric of the society in east and west Bengal – the effects of which are still felt.

Then there was Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's great escape from India and the partition of the subcontinent.

All these events left a lasting imprint on the young mind of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his formative years as a student and a political activist.

Mujib spent only five years in Kolkata from 1942 to 1947. But his experiences as a student activist in that short time contributed to shaping his political thoughts and vision of an inclusive economic and secular political culture.

The one lasting thread running through his stay in Kolkata was his raw courage in the face of adverse situations.

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## St Martin's to start getting supplies from today

Island almost out of essentials

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Two trawlers from Teknaf will sail for the St Martin's today with essentials to ease the food crisis on the island, said Yamin Hossain, additional district magistrate of Cox's Bazar, yesterday.

The Coast Guard will provide security for safe transportation of the essentials, he said after an emergency meeting of officials at the deputy commissioner's office.

Operation of passenger and cargo vessels on this route remains suspended after several vessels were fired upon from Myanmar since last Thursday. This led to shortage of food and other essential supplies in the island.

Within a day or two, a vessel from Cox's Bazar's BIWTA jetty will make regular trips to the island to keep it supplied, the additional district magistrate added.

If needed, trawlers from Bholachar in Teknaf will

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## Gaza ceasefire plan hangs in balance

Hamas seeks changes; Blinken says some proposals unworkable; 38 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday that Hamas had proposed numerous changes, some unworkable, to a US-backed proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, but that mediators were determined to close the gaps.

The proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden envisages a truce and a phased release of Israeli hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the offensive.

At a press conference with Qatar's prime minister in Doha, Blinken said some of the counter-proposals from Hamas administering Gaza had sought to amend terms that it had accepted in previous talks.

"Hamas could have answered with a single word: Yes," Blinken said. "Instead, Hamas waited nearly two weeks and then proposed more changes, a number of which go beyond positions that it had previously taken and accepted."

The US has said Israel has accepted its proposal, but Israel has not publicly stated this.

Izzat al-Rishq from Hamas' political bureau said its formal response to the US proposal was "responsible, serious

- Israel, Hamas committed war crimes in Gaza: UN inquiry
- Lebanon's Hezbollah fires barrages of rockets at Israel
- Gaza death toll rises to 37,202

and positive" and "opens up a wide pathway" for an accord.

Hamas also wants written guarantees from the US on the ceasefire plan, two Egyptian security sources said.

Major powers are intensifying efforts to halt the conflict in part to prevent it spiralling into a regional war, with a dangerous flashpoint being the escalating hostilities on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, backed by Iran, fired barrages of rockets at Israel yesterday in retaliation for the killing of a senior Hezbollah field commander. Israel said it had in turn attacked the launch sites from the air.

## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

# Efforts on to arrest 15 fugitive convicts including Tarique

### PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday that 15 convicts in the August 21 grenade attack case, including BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, are absconding and efforts are on to arrest them.

"Out of the 49 convicts, 34 were arrested," she said in response to a question from Farida Yasmin, Awami League MP from a reserved seat, during the question-answer session.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the session was held at the beginning of the day's sitting.

"Among the convicts, 19 were sentenced to death and 19 to life imprisonment, and the rest got different jail terms," said Hasina, also leader of the House, adding that Dhaka's Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the judgment on October 10, 2018.

She said Interpol issued red notices against convicts Maulana Tajuddin, Harris Chowdhury, and Ratul Ahmed Babu alias Ratul Babu, who are now abroad.

Two cases – one under the penal code and another under the Explosive Substances Act – were filed over the grenade attack on AL's anti-terrorism rally on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

The PM said two charge sheets were filed against 52 people in the cases.

She said that out of the 52 charge-sheeted accused, three were executed in other cases before the verdict was declared.

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## Kuwait fire kills 49 Indian workers

### Dozens injured

AFP, Kuwait City

A fire in Kuwait killed 49 people, all Indian nationals, when it ripped through a building housing nearly 200 foreign workers yesterday, the government said.

The blaze, which broke out in the six-storey building south of Kuwait City around dawn, also left dozens injured, the health ministry said.

Flames engulfed the lower floors as black smoke poured out of the upper-storey windows, unverified images posted on social media showed.

The interior ministry revised the death toll up to 49, from 35 earlier, after forensic teams scoured the charred building.

"The number of deaths as a result of the fire in the workers' building... has risen to 49," the ministry said.

The official Kuwait News Agency quoted Health Minister Ahmed al-Awadhi as saying hospitals had received 56 people injured in the fire in the Mangal area, which is heavily populated with migrant workers.

The building, whose exterior was blackened with soot, housed 196 workers, according to information given to the interior minister by their employer.



Workers trying to douse the fire that ravaged through Gartex Garments Ltd warehouse, in the City Gate area in Chattogram, yesterday morning. Six firefighting engines later brought the blaze under control around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## AL leader knew about his murder but kept mum

### Say investigators

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Investigators have found evidence that Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of Jhenaidah Awami League, knew about MP Anwarul Azim Anar's murder before it was made public.

Mintu learnt about the lawmaker's killing and even got the photos on May 16, but did not inform the law enforcers or the victim's family of the matter.

The detectives got the information by interrogating Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah AL, and analysing his mobile phone records.

Even Babu, who is now on a seven-day remand, told the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police that he gave his phones to Mintu and shared information of the murder with him.

Over phone, Babu communicated with Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, the coordinator of the murder. Amanullah and Babu in their earlier statements said they exchanged photos of the murder via WhatsApp and held

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MP AZIM MURDER