

Although the annual 65-day government ban on sea fishing ended last week, fishing trawlers of all sizes remain docked as a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal is causing huge waves and high wind speeds that threaten their safety. The picture was taken from a wharf along Karnaphuli river in Chattogram recently. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Fishing trawlers lying idle for rough sea

Fishers already counting losses for a 65-day ban on fishing

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Chattogram

Fishers in coastal regions of Bangladesh have yet to begin operations as the sea remains rough due to a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal, according to industry people.

Besides, this delay could cause losses for fishers as they already had to suspend their activities during an annual 65-day government ban on fishing in the sea that began on May 20.

And although some tried to brave the waters, they were ultimately forced to return empty handed.

As such, many fishing trawlers are now lying idle at different wharfs across Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Barishal, Patuakhali and Mongla.

Md Aminul Haque Babul Sarkar,

Trawler Owners Association, said the 65day ban was annually imposed to facilitate the breeding of marine fish.

Most fishers had set sail the very night this year's ban ended on July 23. However, they came back the next day with nothing to show for it as the high wind speeds and large waves had raised serious safety

Abul Hossain, the owner of two fishing trawlers, said he spent about Tk 4 lakh on food, fuel, fishing equipment and other accessories to take his two vessels out to sea to catch fish on July 24.

But now, much of this investment could go to waste as the vessel owners are having to count costs even though their earnings are at a standstill.

"For example, we have to pay the

general secretary of Chittagong Fishing workers' wages even while they have no work at hand," he said.

Officials of Patenga Meteorological Office in Chattogram said a low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal's northern region and its surrounding areas.

A Danger Signal No. 3 was lifted last evening for the Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mogla and Payra seaports. It had referred to a storm which was likely to hit the area.

Abdus Sattar, director of the Marine Fisheries Directorate of Chattogram, said most of the roughly 263 industrial fishing vessels and 29,358 wooden trawlers across Bangladesh have returned to the coast.

He also informed that the fisheries sector contributes 2.43 percent of the country's annual GDP.

And while Bangladesh currently earns about Tk 500 crore from exporting fish

every year, the government plans to increase this income to Tk 1,500 crore by

As per data of the fisheries department, about 47.59 lakh tonnes of fish were produced throughout the country in fiscal 2021-22. Of this amount, marine fish accounted for 7.6 lakh tonnes.

Mostak Ahmed, organising secretary of the District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association in Cox's Bazar, said many of the roughly 5,000 fishing trawlers in the area had set off on July 24.

"But they later returned without catching anything as the sea was rough with high wind speeds that made it difficult to keep trawlers steady," he said.

"Accidents can happen anytime under such conditions and so, they returned to shore," Ahmed added.

Robi's profit rises fourfold

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Robi Axiata PLC has registered a hefty jump in its profits in the second quarter of 2024 mainly depending on higher sales and lower spending for raw materials.

The country's second largest telecom company's profit hit Tk 107 crore in the April-June period of this year, which is over four times higher from last year same period's Tk 24 crore.

"Despite the economic woes and the mounting regulatory challenges, we are happy to see Robi continuing on the growth trajectory," said Rajeev Sethi, managing director and CEO of Robi.

The company has continued to invest heavily in its network to ensure quality experience for its customers, as data consumption by its users is

Unfortunately, the significant taka devaluation that took place due to the introduction of crawling peg method for currency exchange rate adjustment and the rising borrowing cost had knocked off a large chunk of Robi's profit for the quarter, despite its razor-sharp focus on efficient cost management, Sethi said.

His comment came in a press release released yesterday.

Robi's foreign exchange loss was Tk 47 crore in the three months to June this year while it was Tk 6 crore in the same period of 2023.

According to the financial report of the company, its sales rose while costs of revenue or raw materials dropped, which contributed to a rise in profits.



W.	COMMODITIES		
OIL	Gold 🔻	Oil 🔺	
	\$2,391.43 (per ounce)	\$77.20 (per barrel)	

	ASIAN MARKETS			
***	MUMBAI	токуо	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
	0.05% 81,287.35	2.13% 38,468.63	0.52% 3,444.18	0.03% 2,891.85

VPN use surges

A VPN offers users the in various ways. We will ability to bypass imposed request that they avoid that the "right explanation" firewalls by encrypting using VPNs as they can be could be shared from the their internet traffic risky," he said. and routing it through "For personal security rumours. servers located in other and information security,

A research team of vpnMentor, a team of 265 writers, and editors, found will get the password," he information," he said. an astonishing 5,016 added. percent increase in VPN demand in Bangladesh during the past week starting July 22.

The demand reached its peak three days later on July 25.

After the de-escalation of the situation around the country, broadband internet was restored and VPN demand started to go back down on July 25.

However, as of filing of this report last night, infrastructure. demand remained high at over 2,500 percent.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak urged citizens not to use VPNs.

distort credit flows and, if

financial sector safety net end 2023.

framework need to be framework

It said deposit insurance framework."

and the people's savings."

and crisis preparedness

strengthened in the face of

system (DIS) for banks

and non-bank deposit-

decades ago, is not fully

operational and does not

comply with international

standards, according to the

coverage is low and the

rising stability risks.

vulnerabilities

"At this moment, many infrastructures," he said.

are using different apps

financial

Palak, though, continues are using VPNs available He was one of the first purchase the services. persons to take to Facebook

on Tuesday in selected dozens of posts on his

verified Facebook page. kept open for some key

"We haven't

Politically-motivated lending

several banks in the past,

"The crisis response

access to lender of last

resort, least cost resolution

established under BB two of government funds to bail growth slowed to 9.9

out domestic systemically

important banks, mandate

and operations of financial

stability committee, and

undeveloped and was capacity of the central bank according to the report.

communications

causing bad loans to spiral

fragmented.

transparent,

left unattended, may lead it did not trigger insured

to large losses to the budget deposits despite a large

The WB also said the nearly \$ 1.2 billion as of the

The deposit insurance underdeveloped, including

crisis

Upgrading

taking institutions, while and liquidation tools, use

payout mechanism is regulatory and supervisory

He said his social media accounts remained active so government and counter

"I have kept all of my we should refrain from social media active and I using VPNs. If we perform am trying to keep it active transactions so that the media and cybersecurity researchers, with a VPN, the providers the people get authentic Meanwhile, many people

> to use Facebook prolifically. for free and some opted to Mustafa Jabbar, former

> after the government minister for ICT and resumed broadband service telecom, has recently purchased VPN services. "When you create an

Since then, he has given impediment, people seek ways to overcome it. In the realm of technology, if you Asked about it, he said lock something, it can be the internet had been broken by someone at any moment," he said.

"VPNs are not used by got just a few people; millions disconnected from the of people across the globe world at any time. We use them. VPNs were used had to keep the internet in Bangladesh in the past open for some important and continue to be used

foster sustainable financial

sector has shown rapid

growth in loans and

deposits over the past

access to credit is now

constrained by tightened

liquidity in the banking

sector and rising interest

Private sector credit

percent in the first nine

months of FY24 from 16.2

percent in the same period

New letters of credit

declined from \$8 billion

per month in FY22 to \$5

billion per month in FY24,

remains decade, private sector

a year earlier.

The global lender added

intermediation, it said.

never tested. While BB is also required to safeguard

revoked the licences of market confidence and

accumulated DIS fund of that while the banking

non-

Apparel retailers

After the meeting, BGMEA president SM Mannan Kochi said retailers and brands assured them that they would not seek or cancel work orders.

added production had resumed at factories while internet services and operations were restarted meetings after the prime minister, ICT minister, home minister and shipping minister over the last few days.

The BGMEA chief also said retailers were a bit worried as they want fast internet and smooth operations in ports.

The garment sector incurred production losses amounting to Tk 6,400 crore during the four-day shutdown. Additionally, Tk 1.000 crore will have to be

paid to workers although there was no production in

the units. urged Kochi government to keep the garment sector out of discounts or air shipments the purview of curfews or any kind of political activity considering the importance of the sector.

Last week, Mohammad Ali Khokon, president of the Bangladesh Textile Association, said the primary textile sector. which includes spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing activities, lost \$58.8 million in six days due to the shutdown and internet blackout, which is about \$9.8 million per day.

Although buyers are not cancelling work orders or seeking discounts, they are putting a pause on work orders or delaying them, which is creating a stockpile of yarn and fabrics in mills.

China's manufacturing activity seen extending decline

REUTERS, Beijing

expectations officials will need to release further stimulus as a protracted property crisis and job insecurity drag on growth.

The official purchasing managers' index (PMI) was forecast at 49.3, down from June's reading of 49.5, according to the median forecast of 31 economists in the poll. The 50-point mark separates growth from contraction in activity.

The world's second-largest economy grew much slower than expected in the China's factory activity likely shrank second quarter, with the consumer sector for a third month in July, a Reuters a particular cause for concern. Retail poll showed on Monday, keeping alive sales growth sank to an 18-month low as deflationary pressures forced businesses to slash prices.

Solid exports have provided some support in recent months and propped up progress towards the government's growth target of around 5 percent, but as a growing number of trade partners mull import tariffs, the jury is out on whether that boost can be sustained.

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড

নংঃ ২৩,২২,৭০০১,০১৬,১৪,০১৪,১৯,সিঃহাঃ ফার্মেসী-১৪৯১

তারিখঃ ১৩ শ্রাবদ, ১৪৩১

এতধারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচেছ যে, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড পরিচালিত সিরাজ খালেনা মেমোরিয়াল ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড জেনারেল হাসপাতালের অভ্যন্তরে ফার্মেসিটি আগামী ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে ইজারা প্রদানের নিমিত্তে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাজেঃ

ক্ৰঃ নং	স্থাপনার বিবরণ	সরকারি মৃশ্য	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	যে তারিখ পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হবে	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ	মন্তব্য
 সিরাজ খালেদা মেমোরিয়াল ক্যান্টনমেন্ট 	১৫,৮৮,০০০/- (পনেরো লক্ষ আটাশি হাজার) টাকা	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা	০১/০৮/২০২৪ হতে ১৪/০৮/২০২৪	34/04/2028		
			২০/০৮/২০২৪ হতে ২৮/০৮/২০২৪	২৯/০৮/২০২৪		
	বোর্ড জেনারেল	হালের র	০২/০৯/২০২৪ হতে ১০/০৯/২০২৪	>>/0%/২০২8		
হাসপাতালের অভ্যন্তরে ফার্মেসি-০১টি				১২/০৯/২০২৪ হতে ১৯/০৯/২০২৪	২২/০৯/২০২৪	
	ফার্মেসি-০১টি		২৪/০৯/২০২৪ হতে ২৯/০৯/২০২৪	৩০/০৯/২০২৪		

১। দরপত্র সিডিউলসমূহ ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) ক্রয় করা যাবে

২। ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড, ঢাকা সেনানিবাসে প্রতিটি ধার্য তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র বাব্ধ খোলা হবে। দরপত্র বাব্ধ খোলার সময় দরদাতাগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন। এক দফায়/পর্বে বিক্রয়কৃত দরপত্র অন্য পর্বে আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্র হিসেবে ব্যবহার করা যাবে না। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখে সরকারি ছটি হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে দরপত্র দাখিলের জন্য নির্ধারিত হবে।

৩। খামের উপর দরপত্রদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা (মোবাইল নম্বরসহ) ও স্থাপনার নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে

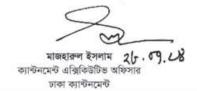
৪। দাখিলকত প্রদন্ত দরের ৫০% অর্থ "ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এক্সিকিউটিভ অফিসার, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট" এর অনুকলে পে-অর্ভার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিভিউলের সাথে জমা করতে হবে। কোনক্রমেই চেক গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। অবশিষ্ট টাকা কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে জমা করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, তথুমাত্র অনুমোদিত সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতার পে-অর্ভারটি জমা রাখা হবে এবং অন্যদের পে-অর্ভার ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

৫। দরপত্র সিডিউলে দাখিলকৃত দর কোনক্রমেই সরকারি মূল্যের চেয়ে কম দাখিল করা যাবে না। তাহলে দরপত্র সিডিউল

বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ৬। সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ভাটি ও আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

৭। দরপত্র সিভিউলের সাথে সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০১ (এক) কপি ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি, ড্রাগ লাইসেন্স এর ফটোকপি ও টিআইএন সনদের ফটোকপি অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায়, দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র বাতিল

৮। যে কোন দরপত্র কিংবা সকল দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্ত্তপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।



Shipping woes

He said both the domestic and global supply chains be compelled to offer were dependent on the internet and that the blackout had seriously hampered trade.

He further said bookings for the shipment of four consignments of goods had to be cancelled in the past 10 days and that keeping in touch with clients over the phone was proving troublesome, especially regarding shipment and

payment details. Islam, Saiful managing director of Picard Bangladesh, which exports leather products, the weeklong said disruption hindered both production and

Islam said he would discounts from 10 percent to 40 percent on his products due to delays in shipment as those are seasonal products.

But it varies depending on the buyer and product, he said, adding that buyers usually seek discounts if a shipment is delayed by just a couple of weeks.

According to Islam, the unprecedented disruption caused buyers to raise questions about the capacity of manufacturers, infrastructure, security, and political stability, which are issues that have not been flagged in the past five to six years.

Remittance shows

campaign by any group,"

believes that remittance flow has been returning to normalcy for the past three

the coming days, said BB spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque.

according to central bank

FROM PAGE B1 affected due to any negative

he added. Bangladesh Bank also

Remittances grew 10 percent year-on-year to \$23.9 billion in FY24,