



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
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News Brief

The government has ordered maximum preparedness as meteorologists predicted cyclone Fani's landfall by this evening issuing danger signals particularly for two ports along its southwestern coastlines and kept the armed forces ready for disaster operations. Directives have been issued asking the administrations of 19 districts in the coastlines to start evacuating people to safe shelters from 10 am today. Over 4,000 cyclone shelters along the coastlines were kept open for the people to take makeshift refuge. Disaster Management and Relief Ministry, other ministries and agencies concerned are in constant touch with the coastal districts to monitor the situation in view of the cyclonic storm.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in London on an official visit, has asked the authorities concerned to take all precautionary measures against the backdrop of cyclonic storm 'Fani' that could hit the coastal belts of Bangladesh this evening. The PM has instructed all departments concerned to take all kinds of precautionary steps and remain alert to minimize the losses of lives and property during the cyclonic storm 'Fani'.

Maritime ports of Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist danger signal number seven and Chattogram Port has been asked to hoist danger signal number six. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday suspended water transport services on all routes across the country due to cyclone warning.

Directorate General of Health Services has decided to cancel holidays of physicians of concerned districts and upazilas where the super cyclone 'Fani' could hit. Besides, a total of 2,362 medical teams have been formed to render emergency services after hit of the cyclone. District or upazila based local control rooms have been opened and these control rooms will always keep in touch with 'National Health Emergency Operations Center and Control Room' under the Directorate of Health. The hotline numbers are: 01769954137, 01759114488 and 9855933.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the role of the mass media is undeniable for building a multidimensional developed nation. The Minister said, the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly to ensure the highest freedom of the mass media as well as the journalists. The Minister said this while speaking at a function marking World Press Freedom Day at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh and the US have agreed to strengthen counterterrorism cooperation as the seventh security dialogue concluded in Dhaka yesterday. In the dialogue, Dhaka urged Washington to return Rashed Chowdhury, a convicted killer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to face justice. Foreign Ministry's Americas Wing Director General Ferdousi Shahriar and US State Department's political military academy bureau Deputy Assistant Michael F Miller led the respective side in the dialogue.

At least 10 Bangladeshi expatriate workers were killed and seven others injured in a road accident in Saudi Arabia yesterday. Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Golam Moshir talking to media said, the critically injured passengers were rushed to the hospital. Moshir also said, he has already sent mission officials to the scene from Riyadh, 200 miles away from the accident spot, to identify the deceased and provide support to the injured.

Bangladesh will take on Laos in grand final of the prestigious Bangamata U-19 Women's International Gold Cup Football scheduled to be held today at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital. The match kicks off at 6 pm. President Md. Abdul Hamid is expected to attend the ceremony and distributed the prizes.

Access to information (a2i) programme under the Prime Minister's Office has introduced a helpline 333 to provide information and other related services to Muslim devotees about prayers, Sehri and Iftar, Roza, Zakat and Fitrah during the month of Ramadan.

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