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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasized on the need for providing stipends and the money of education allowance to deserving students. "The government puts the highest importance on education as only education can free the nation from the curse of poverty," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister was presiding over the 4th meeting of the 'advisory committee' of Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund at her office.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday distributed cheques of financial assistance among gallantry award-receiving freedom fighters and their descendants at her office. The Prime Minister gave a cheque of Tk 3 lakh to each of the 12 recipients.

Each affected family in the haor areas will get 30 kg rice and Tk 500 cash every month under a 100-day scheme, said Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya. The Minister yesterday said, "The government has taken a 100-day scheme to provide relief to 3, 35,000 families ravaged by flashflood recently in haor area as emergency support."The minister informed this while talking to the media after an inter-ministerial meeting over the flood situation in haor areas held at Bangladesh Secretariat. Besides, some 1,71,715 families of the affected areas will get relief materials through Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) program and Open Market Sale (OMS), he said.

President Abdul Hamid will leave for London this evening for a medical checkup. It is scheduled that a flight of Emirates Airlines carrying the President will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7.30 pm.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said Chittagong will see a drastic change within the next 5-10 years following the massive development initiatives, including the establishment of two special economic zones. The minister was addressing a function marking the formal inauguration of a permanent office for Chittagong Journalists Forum, Dhaka (CJFD) in the city.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the incumbent government is following 'zero tolerance' policy to curb militancy. The Minister also said government will not make any compromise to resist militancy. The Minister came up with the remarks at a workshop organized by Department of Mass Communication at CIRDAP Auditorium in the capital.

The government yesterday extended the time limit for this year's Hajj registration till Tuesday (April 25). Religious Affairs Minister Principal Motiur Rahman announced this when the newly elected officials of Hajj Agent Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) went to meet him.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mashiur Rahman Ranga yesterday said the government, through the Bangladesh Samabaya Bank, has waived over Taka 100 crore interest on agriculture loans. He said this while presiding over a meeting on the activities of Bangladesh Samabaya Bank at the LGRD and Cooperatives Division conference room.

The government has finalized the process of nationalizing 285 colleges in the country. Issuing a notice, the education ministry on Thursday asked 285 colleges to hand over their movable and non-movable property to the government.

A business delegation from Denmark is currently visiting Bangladesh to help Bangladesh in developing Ready-Made-Garment (RMG) sector where green Danish solutions can add to a more sustainable production. The embassy of Denmark and a Danish company have organized the business delegation.

Bangladesh has made a significant progress for preventing malaria cases in the past three years and it has set a target of eliminating the mosquito-borne infectious diseases by 2030. In 2014, the number of malaria cases in the country was 57,480 while the figure of the disease stood at 39,719 in 2015 and 27,737 in 2016, Dr MM Aktaruzzaman, program manager of National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), told yesterday.

DSEX, the prime index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 5,438.24 points.

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