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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in London on an official visit, has asked the authorities concerned and the Awami League leaders and activists to help the people affected by the cyclone Fani. A press release issued by the PMO yesterday also said, the Premier mourned the deaths of those killed in the cyclone, prayed for their departed souls and conveyed her profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

The relief and rescue operations have already been started in the cyclone-hit areas. The district and upazila administrations, various departments of the government, public representatives and private organizations have been working to assess the damage caused by the cyclone. Members from the army, navy and air force have already reached the affected areas to help the people, while helicopters of the air force have been used in conducting survey to help ascertain the damage unleashed by the cyclone. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman yesterday visited the Fani affected areas in Satkhira for assessing the actual situation of the people and the damage.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman has asked the concerned officials to give necessary instructions to the administrations of the cyclone battered districts for taking relief and rehabilitation programmes. The Principal Secretary gave the directive as he was presiding over a high level review meeting on measures to face the aftermath of Fani held at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has said, legal aid on government's expense is not a charity, instead it is the right of poor and destitute people of the country and an obligatory duty of the state. The Chief Justice said this while addressing a discussion on Government Legal Aid at the Supreme Court in the capital yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, sudden retrenchment of journalists by any print or electronic media cannot be acceptable by any means. The Minister said, before retrenching, the life and livelihood of journalists should be taken into consideration. The Minister said this while addressing a civic memorial meeting on veteran journalist Md. Shah Alamgir in the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

The results of SSC and equivalent examinations would be published across the country today. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni would publish the results at a function at the International Mother Language Institute this morning.

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held this evening to review the information on the appearance of the moon of the holy month of Ramadan of 1440 Hijri. The meeting will be held at Islamic Foundation in Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7 pm with State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Md. Abdullah in the chair.

The banking hours during the month of Ramadan will be from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Transaction hours for the customers will be from 9:30am to 2:30pm. For bank staffs, there will be a prayer break between 1:15pm to 1:30pm. However, service will continue during this break through bank's internal coordination.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday handed over a cheque worth of Taka 83.38 lakh to the family of Asghar, a deck cadet of Bangladesh Marine Academy, died in a road accident while going to shore leave in Puerto San Martin, Argentina on September 3 last year. On October 12, the body of Asghar was brought to home from Brazil and buried his native village in Barguna district.

The construction of the Padma Bridge is going on in full swing as the 12th span of the much-awaited bridge is set to be installed today. After the installation of the 12th span, a total of 1800 meters of the bridge will become visible.

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