News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has taken all the necessary steps so that the flood-hit people can stand on their own feet again. “The recent floods have caused huge damages to homes and crops. To ensure food security, we’ve already started procuring food grains from abroad so that there’s no food crisis,” she said after receiving cheques of donations to the Prime Minister’s Relief and Welfare Fund from various government and private organisations at her office. Prime Minister said directives have already been given to rebuild houses for those who have lost their homes to river erosion following flood. The Prime Minister while addressing a memorial meeting organised by Awami League’s Dhaka South and North chapters at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) yesterday marking Bangabandhu’s 42nd martyrdom anniversary said, Bangladesh will be free from hunger and poverty in the near future as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the United States to mount pressure on Myanmar to stop pushing its nationals into Bangladesh. “We’ve given shelter to a huge number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh on humanitarian grounds and it’s a big problem for us. So, I call upon you to exert pressure on Myanmar in this regard,” she said when US acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells met her at her office yesterday.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated the Bangladesh cricket team, coaches and officials as the team clinched it's first-ever Test win against Australia in Dhaka. The Prime Minister in her congratulatory message called the win an Eid gift for the people of the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday arrived at the stadium with her grandson after the lunch break on Day 4, when Australia was seven wickets down. As Taijul took Hazlewood's wicket and sealed the victory the Prime Minister jumped out of her seat and took the Bangladesh flag handed to her by Bangladesh Cricket Board Chairman Nazmul Hassan. And as a jubilant, she waved the flag, the stadium filled with the sound of thousands of cheering fans.

Bangladesh has signed a crucial deal with Russia in Moscow on return of highly hazardous nuclear waste. To be discharged from Rooppur Nuclear Plant being constructed with Russian assistance. “Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman signed the agreement on Bangladesh's behalf. On the Russian side Director General of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" Alexey E. Likhachev was the signatory of the deal. The signing ceremony was held at the Rosatom Headquarters in the Russian capital yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has requested Sri Lanka to cut high duty on Bangladeshi products in its market. The Minister made the request during a bilateral meeting with Sri Lankan industries and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen in Colombo yesterday. “Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals, paper, cement, MS rod and agriculture products have good demand in Sri Lankan market, but Bangladesh can’t export those due to high tariff,” he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent an Eid greeting card to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wishing her a happy Eid-ul-Azha. A four-member Awami League delegation, led by its former Assistant Secretary Sikandar Ali, handed over the card to BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi around 12:30 pm at the party’s Nayapaltan central office.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said those leaving the capital to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their near and dear ones will enjoy hassle-free journeys. “Flood-ravaged roads have already been repaired to ensure smooth vehicular movement. So, there’ll be no hurdle for the passengers during their Eid trips,” he said. The Minister came up with the remarks after visiting the Gabtoli Bus Terminal in Dhaka yesterday.

Benazir Ahmed, Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), said that the maximum possible security measures have been taken keeping in mind all types of security risks and apprehensions during the celebrations of Eid-ul-Azha. He made the remarks while briefing reporters after inspecting security measures at the National Eidgah in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh has expressed grave concern over yesterday's missile firing by North Korea over Japan. “Such wanton acts of provocation consists a threat to maintenance of peace, stability and security in the region,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed yesterday at 5,973.94 points.