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| Most Urgent  For: Bangladoot, All Missions  MSG: 213/2018-19  Date: Saturday, 04 May 2019 | | From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  Web:[www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd) | |

**News Brief**

The severe cyclone Fani has crossed over Southwestern part of Bangladesh and moved north-northeastwards further, weakening into a cyclonic storm. The Met Office informed this morning that the storm was located over Satkhira, Jashore and Khulna region as of 6:00 am , it was likely to move in a north-northeasterly direction further over the country. Under the influence of the cyclonic storm, the sky remains overcast, rain and thunder showers with gusty or squally wind is continuing across the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in London on an official visit, has directed all public and private organizations to work in a well-coordinated way to face the cyclonic storm Fani. The PM has also urged the countrymen to remain prepared to face the natural disaster. The Prime Minister's Office in a press release yesterday said, the Prime Minister is monitoring the overall situation round the clock and giving necessary directives. The PMO has suspended its weekly holidays aimed at maintaining communication with the districts in the costal belts, the press release added.

An emergency meeting attended by Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman and Information Secretary Abdul Malek yesterday discussed the overall preparation to tackle the situation arising out of the severe cyclone Fani. Senior Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief Ministry Md. Shah Kalam talking to media on the occasion in the ministry said, the government has shifted 12.40 lac people of the coastal districts to the cyclone shelter centres or safer places due to the severe cyclonic storm Fani. Around 18 lac people could be shifted to shelter centres before the Fani hits, he added.

Bangladesh Navy has remained prepared for emergency rescue, relief and medical assistance in view of the severe cyclone Fani. A total of 32 naval vessels in Chattogram, Khulna and Mongla naval areas are ready to provide emergency relief and medical assistance to the coastal areas during the urgent situation.

Bangladesh and Laos have been declared joint champions in the six-nation Bangamata U-19 Women’s International Gold Cup Football Tournament as the title deciding final match scheduled to be held yesterday was cancelled due to severe cyclonic storm.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has underscored the need for effective initiatives to counter terrorism and militancy across the globe as they are international problems. The Speaker made the stress as she was speaking at a seminar titled “Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Philosophy of Peace towards Preventing Militancy” at IEB in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh has asked Myanmar to create conducive environment in Rakhine through removing all barriers preventing commencement of Rohingya repatriation. Bangladesh made the call at the fourth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Rohingya repatriation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Mahbub Uz Zaman and Myanmar Foreign Ministry’s Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu led their respective sides at the meeting.

Results of the SSC and equivalent examinations will be published on May 6. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni will publish the results at a function at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital at 10am on the day.

A week long ‘Zakat Fair 2019’ will begin in the city today with the theme ‘making a difference with zakat’. Planning Minister M A Mannan will inaugurate the fair around 10am at Krishibid Institute, Farmgate.

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