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News Brief

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has said, Myanmar is destroying Bangladesh's economy by pushing the Rohingyas through the border. He said this to the media in Washington, on Saturday after attending a meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee. IMF said, it is eager to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh, along the lines of the World Bank, to deal with the Rohingya crisis. Kenneth Kang, Deputy Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, came up with the assurance on the occasion of WB-IMF annual meeting.

Malaysia will do what it can to help Bangladesh deal with the growing influx of Rohingyas. Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi expressed this view in a meeting with Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the State Guest House Padma yesterday. He thanked the Bangladesh government for its help in the humanitarian ground and said discussions between the two countries are being held in Dhaka soon on further steps that can be taken to help the refugees.

Deputy Speaker Mohammad Fazley Rabbi Mia has urged the world community to play a united role in repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their home country Myanmar with full respect of their rights to citizenship. The Deputy Speaker made this call while presenting an emergency proposal on this issue in a meeting of four-day long 137th Inter-parliamentary Union conference of the Asia-Pacific group at Saint Peters Burg in Russia yesterday.

With an aim to provide free medical treatment for Rohingya refugees, a 60-bed hospital named 'Emergency Response Unit Field Hospital' is going to open at Gundum under Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar today. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) in association with Norwegian, Finland and Japan Red Cross Society has taken the initiative to set up the hospital for Rohingyas. The government of Japan is providing emergency grant aid of US\$750,000 for six months through UNICEF to strengthen emergency healthcare services of the Rohingya children. UNHCR has been working with the Bangladesh government to collect data on the estimated 5,36,000 forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) had attempted repeatedly to push 50 Rohingya women and children into Bangladesh along Putkhali border in Benapole since Saturday morning. However, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) foiled all the attempts of BSF, said Lt Col Tariqul Hakim, commander of BGB 21 Battalion in Khulna, adding that the number of BGB jawans have been increased in the border to tackle the ill motive of BSF. BGB and local sources said the Rohingya women and children, who were gathered by BSF, have been staying in the jungles near on Angrail border in India for two days in inhuman condition. Meanwhile, AFP adds: Bangladesh has tightened security along its western border with India amid concern that hundreds of Rohingya refugees could be pushed into its territory.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has honoured Awami League lawmaker and Inter-Parliamentary Union President Saber Hossain Chowdhury with 'Order of Friendship', the highest state decoration of Russia.

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Ma Mingqiang has said the relations between Bangladesh and China reached such a height which will help expedite development efforts benefiting people of the two friendly countries. Ambassador Ma was addressing a function titled 'Forum on China's ODA Training Programme of Bangladesh Young Diplomats' in Dhaka yesterday. Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque also spoke at the function.

Experts from South and Southeast Asian countries have called for establishing cooperative global governance for waste management through building regional and global alliances. They made the call while participating in a five-day workshop on 'Waste Management and Reduction of Marine Litter' in Singapore yesterday. Bangladesh along with 29 representatives from south and Southeast Asia participated in the event. Rear Admiral (ret'd) Mohd Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented Bangladesh at the programme.

The World Food Day is being observed today with an emphasis on strengthening food security and rural economy to face the untoward situation of migration, now considered a great challenge across the globe.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, dropped by 0.91 per cent, or 55.46 points, to finish at 6,008.94 points yesterday.

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