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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the Rohingya crisis has now become a concern for the international community because of Bangladesh's efforts. She made the remark at a reception for her return from the United Nations General Assembly in New York at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. She also said her government gave a befitting reply to insults heaped upon Bangladesh over so called 'corruption' by constructing the giant Padma Bridge with own funding.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is urgently seeking USD 83.7 million in additional funds for the next six months to help Rohingyas in Bangladesh. UNHCR spokes-person Andrej Mahecic said this to the media in Geneva on Friday.

India and the European Union (EU) have urged the Myanmar authorities to implement the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine Advisory Commission's recommendations and work with Bangladesh to enable the return of the displaced persons from all communities to Northern Rakhine State. India and the EU also recognised the role being played by Bangladesh in extending humanitarian assistance to the people in need, according to India-EU Joint Statement issued during 14th India-EU Summit in New Delhi on Friday.

The Malaysian government sent 20 metric tons of relief materials for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh. A Malaysian cargo flight carrying the relief materials arrived at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Air port yesterday. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and ICT) of Chittagong Habibur Rahman received the relief materials from Malaysian High Commission Official Ibrahim Jury Bin Mohammad Younus.

Bangladesh is planning to sign four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Myanmar government when a high-level team, headed by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, visits the neighbouring country in the near future. The MoUs are aimed at resolving the Rohingya crisis, cross-border terrorism and drug trafficking. The four MoUs are regarding the demarcation of the boundary of the Naf river, an instrument (official letter) handover, the border liaison office and the security cooperation dialogue, said sources in the Home Ministry.

Patrick Murphy, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, said that sanctions on Myanmar and withholding of US aid are among options for pressing that country's government to stop attacks on Rohingyas. He said this to the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Thursday.

The National Board of Revenue has waived Advance Income Tax (AIT) on relief materials, sent by different countries, or international organizations with the approval of the government under certain conditions. The income tax wing of the International Resource Division issued a Statutory Regularity Order on Thursday in this regard.

Bangladesh's burgeoning drug industry is set to make its foray into Qatar market sometime next year as part of an effort to focus on the broader Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Bangladesh Ambassador in Doha, Ashud Ahmed said this to the media following a pharmaceutical delegation's visit to Qatar.

As part of digitizing the country's land management, some 65 lakh bhumi khatians (records of land rights) have been scanned and indexed into a computerized system. Under the 'Digital Land Management' project that ended in June last beginning in July 2011, the scanning and indexing of 18,500 map-sheets have also been completed.

The government has taken decision in principle to incorporate appropriate clauses for arbitration in all government contracts. Law Minister Anisul Huq said this while addressing a seminar organized by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) marking its 6th anniversary in Dhaka yesterday.

World Bank has expressed concern as country's remittance flow may fall in current fiscal year. Experts said cutting of costs by gulf countries, strong value of taka against dollar, fall of oil price in the international market are the main reasons of the reduction of remittance flow.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, increased by 1.80 per cent, or 109.5 points, over the week to close at 6,202.31 points on Thursday.

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