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**News Brief**

Bangladesh and India have signed the final agreement of \$4.5 billion 3rd Indian Line of Credit. Indian Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley and Finance Minister AMA Muhith were present at the signing ceremony at Ministry of Finance in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, the Indian Finance Minister said the signing of the 3rd LoC agreement will enable the implementation of 17 pre-identified projects of developmental priority to Bangladesh in key sectors of the infrastructure such as power, railways, roads, shipping and ports. Mr. Muhith in his speech expressed satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations between the two countries terming it excellent. He hoped that the two countries will continue to cooperate with each other in the coming days.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians (ASSP) to play an important role in resolving the Rohingya crisis. She made the call while addressing the association's 8th conference being held in Colombo of Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home from London on October 7 after staying in the British capital for three days. The PM reached the UK on Tuesday afternoon (Bangladesh time) on her way back home wrapping up her 16-day official visit to the United States for attending 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA.

Bangladesh has solicited support from the UN to ensure return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals to their homeland in Myanmar. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali raised the issue when Under Secretary General of the UN Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Mark Lowcock and Executive Director of UNICEF Anthony Lake jointly met him at his office yesterday. Both of them have visited Cox's Bazar where the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals have taken shelter. They thanked the government and the people of Bangladesh for giving shelter to the helpless Rohingyas and deeply appreciated Bangladesh's humanity and generosity. Meanwhile, an update to the UN response plan was released yesterday, seeking \$430 million which is urgently needed to scale up the relief operations in support of the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh wants its first neighbour India to do more to resolve the ongoing Rohingya crisis that has been originated from the country's second neighbour Myanmar. Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, now in New Delhi, said this to the media yesterday at his hotel suite. He will attend the 3-day 33rd India Economic Summit to be organised by the World Economic Forum in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) beginning from today.

Humanitarian organizations helping Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have said, they need \$434 million over the next six months to help up to 1.2 million people. Robert Watkins, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, yesterday said this in a statement after visiting Cox's Bazar district where Rohingyas are staying.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) have called on the Myanmar authorities to immediately stop violence in northern Rakhine State. They also urged Myanmar to promptly and effectively investigate and vigorously prosecute cases of violence against women and children. They said this in a joint statement issued yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith leaves Dhaka for the USA today to attend the annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The sixth round of annual Security Dialogue between Bangladesh and the USA was held at the US Department of State, Washington on Tuesday. During the meeting, the US has highly appreciated Bangladesh's human approach in providing temporary shelter and emergency humanitarian assistance to the Myanmar nationals fleeing the violence in the Rakhine State. Director General (Americas) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abida Islam led the Bangladesh delegation while Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Bureau of Political Military Affairs of the United States Department of State Mike Miller led the US delegation.

The Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs), managed by the State Bank of India on behalf of the High Commission of India, initiated a 'Cashless' visa application system in Dhaka effective from yesterday.

Three day long Bangladesh Water Expo-2017, South Asia's leading exhibition on water and waste water sector, will begin today at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, advanced 0.43 per cent or 26.73 points to finish at 6,159.95 points yesterday.

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