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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has said Bangladeshi peacekeepers under United Nations' supervision have set an example in establishing peace and harmony in various conflicting areas across the world. The President said this while Major General Jean Paul Deconinck, force commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. Welcoming MINUSMA force commander to Bangladesh, the President said the visit would inspire the Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the UN peacekeeping mission in discharging duties. Major General Deconinck lauded the highest standard of professionalism, devotion and bravery of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the UN mission.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is delighted at the first installation of a span on the country's much-needed biggest infrastructure Padma Bridge project. She said, "Yes, we've proved, we can." "I'm very happy," she said while exchanging views with leaders of Awami League and its front organisations, representing different state-chapters of the United States at Ritz Carlton Hotel on Sunday. The PM recalled her government's decision to finance the mega project from state fund after the World Bank had withdrawn its loan on a false and fictitious corruption charge. She congratulated all Bangladeshis at home and abroad for extending their support to help complete the dream bridge that would connect the country's southern region with the capital. Regarding Rohingyas the PM said, her administration has taken all necessary measures to provide shelter, food and medicare for distressed Myanmar nationals on humanitarian ground. From the function, the PM unveiled a bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC through video conferencing. The PM is scheduled to depart the Dulles International Airport of Washington for London today (local time 10 pm on Monday) en route home wrapping up her official visit to the United States for attending the 72nd UNGA.

Myanmar has formally proposed taking back the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh. The proposal was made at a meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor of Myanmar Kyaw Tint Swe. At the meeting Bangladesh Foreign Minister proposed a bilateral agreement to facilitate the repatriation process and handed over a draft of the proposed deal to the visiting minister of Myanmar. The two sides at the talks at the state guesthouse Padma in Dhaka yesterday also agreed to constitute a joint working group on the repatriation of Rohingyas.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has said, Bangladesh has to enhance productivity as well as quality to achieve the export target. "Bangladesh's capacity in terms of productivity is now 70 percent. Although the country's capacity in world trade has now increased, more proactive measures are required to increase the productivity level to 90 to increase exports," said the Minister. He said this as he was speaking at a seminar styled 'Productivity for Sustainable Development and Growth,' held in Dhaka yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has said Bangladesh has put an investment-friendly framework in place to attract foreign investors to the stock market. The Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the World Investment Week 2017 in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh is observing the week this year for the first time as the member of the International Organisation of Securities Commission.

Bangladesh and India are set to sign the final agreement on third Indian Line of Credit (LoC) during the maiden visit of Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley beginning today.

Bangladesh and the United States will hold their bilateral security dialogue in Washington today. Acting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Michael Miller and Director General for the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abida Islam from Bangladesh will attend the Sixth Security Dialogue in Washington, D.C.. The meeting will discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in security areas and finding ways to address current challenges.

Dhaka Stock Exchange ended flat yesterday. The key index, DSEX, gained 0.11 points to close at 6,092.95.

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