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NEWS BRIEF

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday wrapping up her three-day official visit to Germany where she attended the Munich Security Conference.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought support of international community to arrange temporary accommodation for Myanmar refugees in a healthy and safe environment in Bangladesh. She said this in a luncheon meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the sidelines of the 53rd Munich Security Conference at Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich yesterday. Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh has taken the issue of extruded Myanmar citizens from humanitarian point of view.

Hundreds of Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar have returned home, community leaders said yesterday, adding that most had gone back temporarily to fetch relatives. Tens of thousands of Rohingyas have fled across the border from Myanmar's western state of Rakhine since October to escape a bloody crackdown by troops and police.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee begins her four-day visit to Bangladesh today to see situations on the ground on Rohingya issue. She will visit various locations in Cox's Bazar district where the population who had fled from Myanmar since October 9, 2016 are residing temporarily in makeshift shelters, according to a message received Dhaka from Geneva.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has taken four-tier security measures in and around the Central Shahid Minar for smooth and peaceful observance of the Shaheed Dibos and International Mother Language Day on February 21.

Norway's Foreign Minister Børge Brende is set to arrive in Dhaka today on his first-ever visit to Bangladesh. He is reciprocating a visit by Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali who had bilateral talks with his Norwegian counterpart in September last year.

The Indian Border Security Force disagreed with decision of 'joint investigation' into border killings but agreed to carry out 'joint verification' or 'joint appraisal' of such incidents. As the 44th director general-level meeting between the Border Guard Bangladesh and the Border Security Force BSF began yesterday, the Indian delegation led by BSF chief KK Sharma argued that the Indian home ministry was against joint investigation into such incidents as the police, not the border forces, were responsible for investigation.

The government and the World Bank yesterday launched a cash benefit programme for the poorest mothers and pregnant women. Under the Jawtno Programme, 600,000 women will receive financial help in exchange for their participation in activities to improve their children's nutrition and cognitive development, the WB said this in a statement.

India and Bangladesh are set to sign a revised agreement to establish more border haats for the frontier people of the two countries, said Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla. He said this yesterday in an interaction with journalists of The Daily Star during a courtesy visit to the newspaper office in the capital. The makeshift markets are turning out to be great successes in Meghalaya and Tripura, he added. Presently, four border haats are operational along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya and Tripura.

A clash between Myanmar security forces and militants has left two soldiers injured on Bangladesh border with the country's Rakhine state, reports Reuters.

The country office of International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Dhaka yesterday handed over a car, brought in Bangladesh under a duty-free facility, to the officials of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID).

Fifty-six entrepreneurs yesterday received the CIP or commercially important person's status in recognition of their contribution to the economy. Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu handed over the CIP cards for 2015 at a function at Dhaka.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, finished at 5,583 points, shedding 0.13 percent or 7.65 points yesterday.

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