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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Munich yesterday on a three-day official visit to Germany to attend an international security conference. It is her maiden overseas tour in the third consecutive term in office which would also take her to the United Arab Emirates during the return journey. The Munich Security Conference began in Munich today where the Premier has several other engagements including meetings with leading business conglomerates and health campaigners.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an interview with Deutsche Welle has indicated that her present and third consecutive term could be her last as Prime Minister of the country, saying that she wanted to create room for younger leaders. The Prime Minister highlighting the development programmes being implemented by her government said, the fight against poverty will continue to be her first priority during the rest of her tenure.

As many as 98 heads of state and government as well as chiefs of different international bodies have so far extended their heartfelt congratulations to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on securing her party's landslide victory in the December 30 elections and on her re-election as the Prime Minister for the fourth time. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina informed the Jatiya Sangsad during her question-answer session on Wednesday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, the government will recruit 5,000 physicians within the next two months aimed at minimizing the shortage of physicians across the country. A process is underway to recruit 10,000 physicians, the Minister informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The two phases of the 54th Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims began this morning at Tongi amid tight security. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message on the occasion prayed for the happiness, peace and welfare of the countrymen and the Muslim Ummah.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the government has taken various measures to make the Coast Guard more capable to ensuring proper use of huge marine resources. The government has plans to add weather-capable ship, hovercraft, drone, helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft for this force to increase their capabilities. The Minister said this while addressing the 24th anniversary function of Bangladesh Coast Guard at its headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, in a congratulatory message to his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen on his appointment as the Foreign Minister, has expressed his hope for building a stronger Dhaka-Washington relation in the coming days. The Secretary of State also appreciated the generosity of the Bangladesh government and people for continuing to host and shelter over one million Rohingya.

The Foreign Ministry in Dhaka has summoned Myanmar's Acting Ambassador as the neighbouring country again tended to show the St. Martin's Island as its territory on a government map. Director General for South East Asia wing M Delwar Hossain summoned Ambassador Aung Kyaw to his office yesterday and handed over a strongly-worded protest note to him. Bangladesh asked the Myanmar authorities to rectify their map and assure Bangladesh that they won't do it further in future.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak, during his visit to the UK on February 11-12, invited digital investors in Bangladesh. The State Minister made the invitation as he was addressing an event at the House of Lords where the Senior Members of the House of Lords and Commons were present.

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed an MoU aimed at bolstering military cooperation between the two countries. Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh Lt. General Md. Mahfuzur Rahman and Saudi Arabian Armed Forces' Deputy Chief of General Staff Lt. General Mutlaq bin Salim Al-azaima signed the agreement in Riyadh yesterday.

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