



A jovial German Chancellor Angela Merkel gestures as she meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of talks during the 53rd Munich Security Conference at the Bayerischer Hof Hotel in Munich yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Support Rohingya relocation

PM urges int'l community, meets German chancellor in Munich

UNB, BSS, Munich, Germany

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought support from the international community, including Germany, to temporarily relocate Myanmar nationals living in Bangladesh to Thengar Char in Noakhali for providing them with all facilities.

She said this when German Chancellor Angela Merkel wanted to know about the present situation of the Myanmar nationals during a bilateral meeting with her at Hotel

Bayerischer in Munich.

The PM informed the German chancellor that the Myanmar citizens were currently leading a miserable life in Cox's Bazar and its adjacent areas without any proper civic amenities, including sanitation, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told reporters after the meeting, reports UNB.

"That's why the government wants to temporarily relocate them to another place to provide them with better facilities," Ihsanul quoted the premier as saying.

Hasina said a large number of Myanmar nationals, who entered Bangladesh illegally, were staying in Cox's Bazar which is a tourist spot. "This largely affected the environment of the area and the country's tourism sector," she added.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam recently announced that the Myanmar refugees would be temporarily rehabilitated as they would be repatriated to Myanmar.

Some 70,000 Myanmar nationals

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Over 1,000 city malls at fire risk

Finds fire dept survey; actions if safety measures not taken by this month

TAWFIQUE ALI

Over a thousand shopping malls and markets in the capital were built without mandatory fire-safety clearance and those are now posing a serious threat, said fire department top officials.

The extremely risky (with no fire-safety necessities) or risky (with some fire-safety measures installed) commercial establishments have been in operation for years without fire-safety clearance and licence, said Major AKM Shakil Newaz, director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, while commenting on the findings of an inspection report.

Of the 1,126 private and government-owned malls, super markets and kitchen markets the department inspected, 1,080 were found to be extremely risky or risky.

The shopping malls and markets found extremely risky or risky obviously do not have fire safety clearance and licence, said Major Shakil.

"We gave them a deadline and are going to take legal actions if they fail to install fire-safety equipment by the end of February," he said, adding, "We will go for action as per fire law and ask city corporations to cancel their trade licences."

They would also provide fire-safety training to those who would seek it. The inspection followed an early January fire that gutted around 300 shops at a Gulshan market and caused collapse of the building.

The department has done a similar inspection across the country, he said, adding that the findings show the situation was similarly alarming with nearly 98 percent of the commercial establishments extremely risky.

In posh Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani and Badda, 79 were found extremely risky and 34 risky and only five had satisfactory (mostly compliant with some negligible lapses) safety system.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Five DB men withdrawn for 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Five members of Detective Branch (DB) of police were closed to the police lines in Joypurhat yesterday after a complaint of extortion was filed against them on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Rashidul Hasan issued the withdrawal order after Amirul Islam of Uttar Krishnapur village under Panchbibi upazila filed a written complaint against the detectives. In the complaint, he accused them of extorting Tk 45,000 from him.

The closed DB men are SI Md Ripon Mia, ASI Sarwardi and constables Aminul Islam, Abdur Razzak and Delwar Hossain.

Ashok Kumar Paul, assistant superintendent of police, confirmed the withdrawal, saying they were running an investigation into the allegation.

Further action would be taken against the accused if they were found guilty in the probe, he added.

Amirul in his complaint filed on Wednesday said Ripon along with another policeman picked him up from Atapara area around 11:00am on Monday.

They had taken him inside a nearby bamboo orchard and demanded Tk 45,000, he added.

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