

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 25.0 L 13.2

MYMENSINGH
H 24.5 L 11.4

CHITTAGONG
H 26.0 L 15.0

SYLHET
H 25.5 L 13.8

RAJSHAHI
H 24.4 L 07.0

RANGPUR
H 23.2 L 08.6

KHULNA
H 24.5 L 11.0

BARISAL
H 25.6 L 09.6

COX'S BAZAR
H 28.5 L 15.5

Weather may remain dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met Office. Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rangpur & Rajshahi divisions and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:37pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am. Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

SEVEN AFFILIATED COLLEGES

DU won't issue IDs

Says in press release academic, extra curricular activities of those instts will be conducted from their respective campuses

DU CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of recent demonstrations of the Dhaka University students to scrap DU affiliation of the seven colleges in the capital, the university authorities yesterday issued a press release explaining how all the activities of those colleges would be run.

According to the release, academic and extra curricular activities of those seven colleges would be conducted from their respective campuses and the DU authorities would not issue identity cards to the students of the seven colleges.

They would not get residential, transportation, medical and library services of the university and their admission activities, practical exams and banking services would also be conducted from their own campus, added the release.

The release, signed by acting public relation officer of DU, also said that the college authorities would issue identity cards to their students and the students would get all the facilities like transportation or accommodation services from their respective colleges like the way they used to before affiliation.

Mentionable, DU took viva voce and practical exams of the colleges on its campus during this academic year, after the colleges got affiliated with the university on February 16, 2017.

Meanwhile, the agitating students of the university continued their protest yesterday to press home their demands.

Their demands include punishment for Bangladesh Chhatra League activists who foiled Monday's demonstration of DU students, withdrawal of the "false case" against the students over the Wednesday's incident, resignation of DU proctor for "failing" to punish the BCL men and a permanent solution to the crisis of recently affiliated colleges.

Around 200 students organised a protest rally at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture to press home their demands.

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There was a time, this stream in the capital's Sutrapur area used to be a mighty canal. But over the years, it was reduced to a narrow drainage outlet, de-linking it from the Buriganga. Meanwhile, unabated dumping of waste continues to threaten its existence. The photo was taken at HKB Khalpar yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Tourism village not on locals' mind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should protect the around 130-acre Parjatan Holiday Complex in Cox's Bazar instead of "giving it away at a nominal price" for building a tourism village.

Locals and political activists made the call at a press conference at the beach town's press club yesterday.

They also claimed that the land costs Tk 5,000 crore but the government is leasing it out to a private business conglomerate -- Orion Group -- for Tk 60 crore.

The press conference was organised under the banner of Cox's Bazar Nagorik Samaj.

Emphasising the long tradition of the place, Sirajul Mostafa, president of district unit of Awami League, said pond, open space and natural environment of the complex are a source of recreation for the locals.

However, Mohammad Mohsin, general manager of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, said the government through an international tender bidding process selected the business conglomerate to develop an international standard tourism village on the 130-acre land. It is a first-ever public-private partnership initiative to develop an international tourism facility with the private partner making all the investments, he said. A five-star hotel, golf course, water theme park and other amusement facilities would be built there.

It would be a 50-year tenure and the winning bidder would pay the government more than Tk 772 crore including Tk 60 crore as an upfront premium (contract signing money), he said.

The rest of the amount -- Tk 712 crore -- would be paid over the period of 45 years, said Mohsin. In addition, the winning bidder would pay three percent of the profit, he said.

Orion would have to invest Tk 1,740 crore

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Rohingya man shot dead

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya community leader was shot dead by some unidentified miscreants at a camp in Thaingkhali of Ukha upazila on Friday night.

Md Yusuf, 35, block community leader (Majhi) of block-2 of Tajnimar Khola Rohingya Camp, died at Red Crescent temporary hospital at the camp, said Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Ukha Police Station.

On the same night, local refugees caught one Md Alam with a pistol when he failed in his attempt to shoot another leader, Arif Ullah of Balukhali Camp-2.

Local Rohingyas claimed that a group of Rohingyas who are against their repatriation are carrying out the attacks.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Refugees need to feel safe enough to return: UN

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has reiterated its call for voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh saying Rohingyas need to feel that the situation is safe enough for them.

"It is up for people to choose to go home. No one should choose for them. Any repatriation of Rohingyas back to Myanmar needs to be voluntary," said Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric in regular briefing at the UN headquarters.

He said Rohingyas, now living in Bangladesh, need to be able to go to the homes from where they came. "I think they need to feel that the situation is safe enough."

There have been demonstrations on Friday in camps by Rohingyas protesting plans to repatriate them back to Myanmar.

On the other hand, the Myanmar authorities toured Maungdaw, Rakhine State on Friday and inspected the construction of houses to be used for repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh.

The delegation headed by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyei Pu visited the Hla Phoe Khaung, Ngakhuya and Taung Pyo Letwe camps and insisted on completion of the finishing touches on buildings, medical clinics and sanitation infrastructures, according to The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Following the visit to Maungdaw district, the authorities held a meeting in Maungdaw over the work of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State.

A repatriation plan for the members of the Muslim community, who fled Rakhine State to Bangladesh to escape conflict in Myanmar last year, will begin next Tuesday, Myanmar media reports.

Foreign ministry officials in Dhaka said verification and return of Rohingyas will be based on considering the family as a unit and Bangladesh and Myanmar also finalised the "form" for verification.

The modalities for the repatriation of orphans and children born out of unwarranted incidence have been incorporated in the said arrangement.

"The verification form will be distributed among all Rohingya families. The forms will be then handed over to Myanmar authority for scrutiny. Myanmar will send back the forms to Bangladesh after scrutiny," an official told the news agency indicating that the full-scale repatriation might take some time.

Each Rohingya family member will have to provide a number of information including names, gender, birthplace, name of mother and father, date of birth, address in Myanmar, profession, signs, number of family members and a group family photo.

Under the "Physical Arrangement" Bangladesh will establish five transit camps from where returnees would be received initially in two reception centres on Myanmar side.

Myanmar will shelter the returnees in a temporary accommodation at the Hla Pho Khung and expeditiously rebuild the houses for the returnees to move in there.

Myanmar will consider resettling the people staying at the zero line on a priority basis, according to the agreement.

Meanwhile, a situation briefing teleconference titled, "The Plight of the Rohingya" on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar that has displaced the Rohingya Muslim minority will be held on January 25.

The Pacific Council on International Policy, an organisation focused on foreign policy with its headquarters in California, USA, will host the event.

Simon Billenness, executive director, International Campaign for the Rohingya; Priscilla A Clapp, senior advisor, United States Institute for Peace; and Dr Ali Riaz, a professor of the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, will take part in the discussion.

Dr Parveen Parmar, associate professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, will moderate the session.

They will discuss various issues including to what degree does Aung San Suu Kyi's government shoulder blame for this crisis and what should the international community be doing to help the Rohingya.

On January 16, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a document on "Physical Arrangement" which will facilitate return of Rohingyas to their homeland from Bangladesh.

The "Physical Arrangement" stipulates that the repatriation would be completed preferably within two years from the commencement of repatriation.

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UN official hears horrific tales of persecution

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Visiting UN Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Myanmar Yanghee Lee yesterday met Rohingyas in Bangladesh and listened to their horrific experiences of torture in Myanmar.

She visited Damdamia Rohingya camp in Teknaf early morning and talked to 20 Rohingyas -- 10 men and 10 women -- at the reception centre of Teknaf Nature Park.

During their meeting with Lee, Rohingyas described their bitter experiences to the visiting UN special rights envoy.

Officials of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and international donor agencies were present.

Later, the UN envoy visited Nayapara and other places where Rohingyas are now living.

Lee arrived on Friday afternoon on a three-day visit to watch rights situation of Rohingyas living in the district.

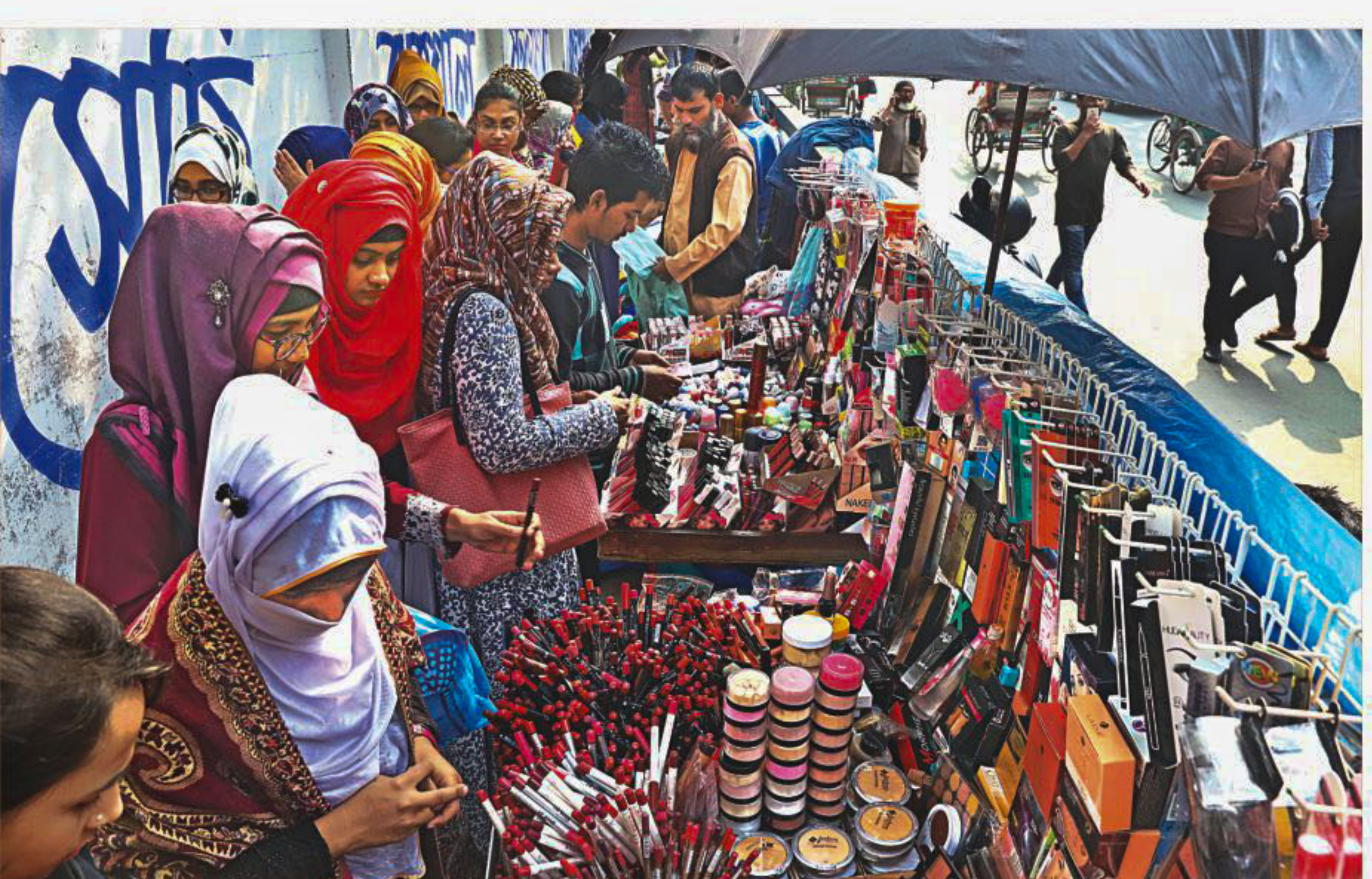
Lee began her Bangladesh visit on Thursday vowing to fulfill her mandate despite the Myanmar government's refusal to work with her, will visit Rohingya camps from today.

After her Bangladesh visit until January 24, the special rapporteur will visit Thailand where she will stay till January 30.

Following her visit, the human rights experts will present a report to the Human Rights Council in March 2018.

"The government (of Myanmar) has accused me

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Vendors continue to occupy almost the entire footpath in front of the capital's Home Economics College to sell their goods. The makeshift stores also remain a much sought-after place for students, especially females, looking for cheap deals. The photo was taken in Azimpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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