

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.0 L 22.3

MYMENSINGH H 27.4 L 20.5

CHITTAGONG H 32.0 L 24.0

SYLHET H 27.0 L 20.0

RAJSHAHI H 30.7 L 19.9

RANGPUR H 30.0 L 20.8

KHULNA H 34.7 L 20.8

BARISAL H 32.6 L 20.0

COX'S BAZAR H 32.2 L 24.0

Rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna & Barisal divisions at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, & Chattogram and at one or two places over Rangpur, Mymensingh & Sylhet with hail at isolated places over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

HC BAIL TO KHALEDA ACC to submit concise statement on appeal to SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will submit a concise statement to the Supreme Court tomorrow on its appeal against the High Court order that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case in which she was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

A concise statement contains the points on which the lawyers place arguments on an appeal before the court.

"We will submit it [the concise statement] to the Supreme Court on Sunday in line with its March 19 order," ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Appellate Division of the SC will hear the appeals against the HC order of bail granted to Khaleda on May 8, the ACC lawyer added.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said his office will submit a separate concise statement to the apex court within this week on the government's appeal against the bail order passed by the HC.

Khaleda's lawyers are supposed to submit two separate concise statements to the SC on the same appeals in two weeks after the ACC and government submit their summary statements, he added.

Following two separate leave to appeal petitions filed by the ACC and the government, the SC on March 19 stayed the HC bail order.

The apex court also allowed the ACC and the

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK

Fruit juices as well as sliced fruits sold by the vendors in port city's Cinema Palace area are apparently not just for people only, those also satiate the appetite of flies. Some of the vendors try to keep the flies away by using a makeshift flyswatter but to no avail. These hovering little insects continue to swoop down on serving glasses and plates full of fruits as those are kept uncovered. With the source of water remaining unknown, such drinks are prepared and served in unhygienic conditions. In addition, the same water is used for washing the fruits and utensils. Exhausted by the heat, many people have those oblivious to the health hazard it brings. The photos were taken recently.

Repatriation deal rushed into

Prof Ali Riaz says about agreement on return of Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

With no virtual progress over Rohingya repatriation, an international expert has said the likelihood of repatriation deal implementation signed on November 23 last year is "slim to none" and the signing of such a deal was a "mistake".

"The deal, as it stands now, is inadequate and likelihood of its implementation is slim to none. Therefore, it was a mistake to sign it," Ali Riaz, a distinguished professor at the Illinois State University, told the news agency.

Explaining his observation, Prof Riaz said any repatriation effort would eventually require a deal between the two countries. "Therefore, the problem is not signing a deal but the details of the arrangements."

He said the problems in-

clude the contents of the agreement, the process through which the deal was reached, the absence of mechanisms of implementation, and lack of involvement of international bodies. Director of Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said Bangladesh currently has a Rohingya population, which is far more than Bhutan's entire population. Bhutan has around eight lakh people whereas Bangladesh now shelters some 1.2 million Rohingyas. On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said although Bangladesh and Myanmar were making various efforts, including the signing of a



deal, there has been no virtual progress in the repatriation of over a million Rohingyas from Bangladesh.

Prof Riaz, a Bangladeshi-American political scientist and writer, said many of them had underscored the importance of the above-mentioned elements even before any negotiations started, but unfortunately those voices were "ignored". There are "many ambiguities" in the deal, including the definition of the refugees and determination of their status, he said.

"The deal has been rushed into, ostensibly under external prodding, reportedly at the Chinese insistence. In the rush, the agreed deals have helped vindicate Myanmar's positions

rather than accommodating Bangladesh's needs," Prof Riaz explained.

From the very beginning, he has been arguing that the involvements of international entities are necessary for implementation. "Although some of the international bodies now have been brought into, they've remained outside the agreement. There's no penalty clause, no arbitration mechanism."

The government is likely to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on April 13, a diplomatic source said.

UNHCR teams -- if the MoU is signed -- will interview prospective returnees to determine if their decision to return to Myanmar was voluntary with support from the Bangladesh authorities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Bangladesh Marma Students' Council forms a human chain in front of the capital's national museum yesterday, demanding a stop to illegal stone extraction from various canals in Thanchi, Ruma, Lama, Ali Kadam and Boangchhari areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

PHOTO: STAR



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আবার বৈশাখের সুরে

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