

RAIN LIKELY

Rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali till 6:00pm today. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Dhaka,

Faridpur, Rangamati, Chandpur, Majdee Court, Rajshahi and Ishwardi and it may continue. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.**

Country's highest temperature 40.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 20.3 degree Celsius in Sreemangal. The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.5	28.3	68	62	Khulna	37.6	27.6	70	65
Chittagong	33.4	26.8	80	75	Barisal	35.8	27.4	69	60
Rajshahi	40.2	25.7	87	44	Sylhet	34.0	24.5	67	56
Rangpur	32.2	25.0	67	66	Cox's Bazar	35.0	27.2	70	70

KILLINGS, DISAPPEARANCES IN LAXMIPUR
21 pro-BNP men victimised

Claims district unit of the party, citing figures of last 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Laxmipur district BNP yesterday claimed that at least 21 activists and leaders of the BNP-led 19-party alliance were subjected to killing and forced disappearance in the last six months in that district since October 26.

Of them, 16 were killed while five fell victim to disappearance by law enforcers and Awami League leaders, said Abul Khair Bhuiyan, the district unit president, at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The district BNP revealed a list of the 21 victims with their names, addresses and ranks and urged the media and human rights organisations to check the list and create pressure upon the government to stop this oppression on the opposition.

Earlier on Monday, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir made a fresh claim that 310 of its leaders and activists fell victim to killing and disappearance by police, Rapid Action Battalion, and AL men around the country in the 14 months since January 2013.

Mentioning the names of Shamsul Islam and Omar Faruk, two BNP leaders of Laxmipur, the district unit president said law enforcers picked Shamsul from the capital's Uttara, and he was found dead in Laxmipur on April 26, while Faruk disappeared from Chittagong on February 4.

Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, former BNP lawmaker, alleged that local BNP men had been passing days in panic, as they were facing oppression by both the ruling party people

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Police try to calm locals who blockaded for about two hours the Dhaka-Chittagong highway for the third day yesterday in Mouchak-Sanarpur area of Narayanganj demanding safe return of Nazrul Islam, councillor of ward-2 of Narayanganj City Corporation, his four aides and lawyer Chandan Sarkar and his driver who were abducted on Sunday. Inset, locals burn tyres on the road.



SHIBIR MAN KILLING CASE
BNP leader Aman gets 6-month bail

Judge unwilling to hear Gayeshwar's bail petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday granted a six-month bail to BNP leader Aman Ullah Aman, while one of its judges felt embarrassed to hear the bail petition of another BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy in a case filed for killing a Shibir man in the capital last year.

Rampura police filed the case on December 30 last year a day after an Islami Chhatra Shibir man, Mansur Pradhania, 20, had been killed at Malibagh Choudhurypara supporting March for Democracy programme, which was scheduled for that day.

Mansur, a law student of City University in Banani, died in a clash between police and Jamaat-Shibir activists in the area on December 29 last year.

Yesterday, Justice Zafar Ahmed felt embarrassed to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

WAR CRIMES TRIALS
Tribunal-1 cautions lawyers about remarks

Mir Quasem's counsel starts closing arguments at tribunal-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1 Justice M Enayetur Rahim, who was hearing the reply over a contempt petition against Supreme Court lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday, said lawyers should be more careful in making comments as they had a huge responsibility.

After the tribunal-1 sentenced former BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to death for war crimes, Khandker Mahbub, also an adviser to the BNP chief, commented that if voted to power, his party would try those involved in the trial.

The verdict against the BNP leader was pronounced on October 1 last year, and Mahbub made the comments on the same day through a press conference.

Mahbub said, "If the nationalist force comes to power, they will try those who are war criminals in the real sense. Those who were tried out of vengeance and the cases which were prepared on the basis of fairytale must go. And those who were involved in the farcical trial, Inshallah [if Allah wishes], they will also be tried on the soil of Bangladesh."

Following a prosecution petition, the tribunal on

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

BUILDING FLYOVER, FLATS IN DHAKA
Deal signed with Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government signed a deal with the Malaysian government yesterday to construct a 13km flyover, 12,000 apartments in Uttara, and high-rises in Kamrangirchar of the capital.

The flyover will run from Shantinagar to Jhilmil Project in Keraniganj while the 12,000 apartments will be constructed in Uttara 3rd phase. The number of apartments in Kamrangirchar was not fixed yet, said Rajuk sources.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain and special envoy of Malaysia's government Dato Seri Utama S Samy Vellu signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the ministry.

"The flyover might be constructed on BOT basis or government-to-government basis, and a final agreement in this regard will come later," said Mosharraf.

No financial and technical details were made available to the press.

A primary design of the flyover has been prepared, and Malaysia's government is examining it, the minister said, adding that if they came forward with the final proposal, then a

final agreement would be signed.

Mosharraf said they had a plan to construct one lakh apartments in Dhaka city, and as a part of that, they signed the MoU with Malaysia to construct 12,000 apartments in the Uttara 3rd phase.

Malaysia will submit the final proposal shortly, he said. "We will go for further agreement for the rest of the apartments as per their performance in the [Uttara] 3rd phase."

Mosharraf said Malaysia would use modern technology to build the high-rises which would have safety measures including prevention of earthquake damage.

An official of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha said 18,000 apartments would be constructed in the Uttara 3rd phase. Of them, 6,000 will be of "A" category (1,250 sq ft), he said.

Malaysia may construct 12,000 apartments-6,000 "A" type and 6,000 "B" type (1,000 sq ft), he added.

The Malaysian envoy said they would take 30 months to complete the work.

About the Kamrangirchar project, Mosharraf Hossain said the local residents living in a poor condition would be accommodated in the high-rises.

JAN 5 JS POLL
German parliament worried over fallout

Head of visiting delegation tells media; hopes for political dialogue soon; Hasina seeks more German investment, cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The German parliament has expressed concern over the election of the Bangladesh parliament by a small number of the electorates on January 5 and stressed early dialogue between the government and BNP.

"I must express the Bundestag's concerns that the current parliament has been elected by a small part of the electorate only, with tens of millions of voters having been deprived of the possibility to cast their ballot," said Dagmar G Wöhr, leader of a visiting German parliamentary delegation.

She appreciated the return of stability but said, "We have some doubts whether it can be maintained for a full period of five years unless substantial dialogue between the major political forces starts, rather sooner than later."

Addressing a pre-departure press conference at the German House yesterday, Dagmar said, "We would hope to soon receive a positive signal from Bangladesh in this respect."

A seven-member German parliamentary team of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

TRIALS OF NIZAMI, SAYEED
Jamaat declares agitation programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami last night announced country-wide fresh agitation programmes for two separate days, demanding the release of its Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Senior Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeed.

The programmes include offering prayers on Friday and staging protests on May 4, said a press release.

Last week, the Jamaat, a key ally of the BNP-led 19-party alliance, brought out processions in all upazilas, districts and metropolitan cities to press the same demand.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will come up with Nizami's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

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