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# A real cause for concern

Around 5,000 SIM cards dumped in Joypurhat pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Going frenzy to catch fish in the ponds is not an unusual picture in rural Bangladesh. But scrabbling about in the pond for SIM cards! Well, that sounds not only unrealistic but hilarious as well.

However bizarre it may sound, the people of a Joypurhat village actually did that and found a few thousand abandoned SIM cards in a pond.

The people of Ziapur village in Khetlal upazila say they found around 5,000 SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) cards of different local operators, including Grameenphone, Robi, Banglalink, Airtel and Teletalk, from the roadside pond yesterday.

A sack full of papers, believed to be SIM card documents, was also recovered from the pond. However, the papers were so badly damaged that nothing could be recovered from those.

Both police and locals believe that criminals or extremist groups might have dumped the SIM cards in the pond to avoid phone tracking.

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Locals dash into a pond in Ziapur village of Joypurhat after a boy found at least 60 SIM cards there yesterday morning. Throughout the day, they found several thousand SIM cards in the pond.

PHOTO: STAR



Shazneen's 16th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exactly 16 years ago on this day, 15-year-old Shazneen Tasnim Rahman was brutally murdered at her family's house in Gulshan. Her parents await the final

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# No action till Sunday

HC orders govt to refrain from taking legal action against green activists over Dhanmondi playground issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government not to take any legal action till Sunday against the green activists who had been demonstrating to press their demand that Dhanmondi playground be opened to public.

The order came hours after four environmentalists sued for protesting occupation of the playground surrendered before a lower court and secured bail.

Green activists earlier filed a writ petition seeking HC directives on the government to stop construction of illegal structures on the playground. Hearing on the petition, the

court yesterday asked the attorney general's office to inform the authorities concerned of its order.

During the hearing, petitioners' counsels Sara Hossain told the court that the four environmentalists -- Mobassher Hossain, former president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon; Kamrunnahar Dana, general secretary of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association, and architect Salma A Shafi -- had been sued and harassed for protesting occupation of the playground.

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# 2 kids killed as AL, BNP men clash

UNB, Laxmipur

Two schoolboys were killed and 10 people injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP activists at Deopara village in Laxmipur Sadar on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Rabiul Islam Shimul, 14, a class VIII student of Pratapganj High School and Farhad Hossain, 16, a class X student of the school.

The clash ensued around 10:30pm when supporters of AL-backed Nasir group and BNP-backed Jisan group got engaged in an altercation over establishing supremacy in Chandraganj Bazar.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# US for improving worker safety

Labour issues, trade benefits on agenda at Apr 28 meeting

STAR REPORT

The US is continuing to press the Bangladesh government to fulfil a labour-related action plan designed to restore the country's eligibility for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), administration officials said on Monday.

Some progress has been made but more needs to be done, the US officials in Washington said in a conference call with reporters in advance of the first anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse on April 24.

New labour laws have been promulgated but regulations are yet to be implemented, Bloomberg BNA reported, quoting unnamed officials. They also said the laws fall short of raising the labour standards in export processing zones to the national level.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



While it's sweltering hot outside, people take a nap on the stone-cold floor of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital after Jhr prayers yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# INTERN STRIKE AT RMCH Patients' woes mount further

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The ongoing work abstention by interns severely affected the healthcare services at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) for the second consecutive day yesterday.

A single doctor was seen attending patients going from one ward to another, which made the delivery of treatment services delayed, said hospital sources.

No major operations on patients were performed at the operating theatre while many patients were seen leaving the hospital in fear of lack of treatment.

Poor patients at the hospital were the worst affected as they do not have resources for treatment at private hospitals.

Ruhul Amin, of Chapainawabganj, had to wait for three hours at the surgery ward to get his wounds stitched by a doctor.

"How could a single doctor tackle 70 to 80 patients at a ward? How could he write prescription or perform stitches at one go? Patients are waiting in a long queue to receive treatment," said a nurse.

RMCH Director Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, however, claimed that all designated doctors were performing their duties and the healthcare services did not fall.

"Interns are not particularly responsible for treating patients... They are getting training here," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# ANTI-MUSLIM REMARKS Modi wants to change strategy

REUTERS, New Delhi

BJP leader Narendra Modi yesterday distanced himself from colleagues on the Hindu far right, saying they must focus on development issues in the election campaign, rather than rail against minority Muslims and liberals.

Modi, the prime ministerial candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is running on a platform to revive an economy going through the worst slowdown since 1980s.

But half-way through a five-week campaign to win over the country's 815 million voters, some members of the BJP and its headline affiliates are facing accusations of trying to whip up a partisan agenda.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

# Scientists 'edit' DNA to cure diseases

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A genetic disease has been cured in living, adult animals for the first time using a revolutionary genome-editing technique that can make the smallest changes to the vast database of the DNA molecule with pinpoint accuracy.

Scientists have used the genome-editing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the demand of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan) that the election commission should be reconstituted in order to hold free and fair elections in future?

Yes (85%)  
 No (15%)

TOTAL VOTES: 286

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government would take any action to stop occupying Dhanmondi Playground defying the High Court order?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

PRAYER TIMING April 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

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 VIP (Gold) Package ৪,০০,০০০ টাকা।  
 মকার Clock Tower (5 star+) হোটেল থেকে থাকবে ও বুকে খাওয়া সহ।  
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