

### RAIN LIKELY

**WEATHER TODAY**  
UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.  
**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.**

Country's highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 19.8 degrees in Rangpur.  
Highest and lowest temperature 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      | 35.5                   | 23.8 | 57                     | 52      | Khulna      | 35.5                   | 20.6 | 61                     | 62      |
| Chittagong | 32.0                   | 23.4 | 47                     | 69      | Barisal     | 34.1                   | 20.9 | 58                     | 69      |
| Rajshahi   | 36.4                   | 22.2 | 64                     | 63      | Sylhet      | 32.5                   | 22.4 | 60                     | 48      |
| Rangpur    | 29.0                   | 19.8 | 89                     | 69      | Cox's Bazar | 34.1                   | 25.2 | 49                     | 67      |

## DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND Another HC judge unwilling to hear greens' petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court judge yesterday expressed unwillingness to hear a writ petition that sought the court's directives on the authorities to remove illegal structures from the Dhanmondi-8 public playground in the capital to ensure people's access to the open space. The playground opened to the public on April 24, days after protests by green activists, but the structures built by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, which had illegally occupied the field for two years, stayed there as before.

Yesterday, senior judge of a two-member HC bench, Justice Farah Mahbub, said, "One of us felt embarrassed to hear the petition due to personal difficulties." Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo was the junior member of the bench.

Justice Farah Mahbub, however, did not disclose the name of the judge who expressed such unwillingness.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star the HC bench would now send the petition to Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, who would refer it to another HC bench for its hearing and disposal.

Earlier on April 28, an HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Habibur Gani had refused to hear the petition.

Six environmentalists collectively filed the writ petition on April 22.

Barrister Fida M Kamal and Barrister Sara Hossain appeared for the petitioners.

# NARAYANGANJ DEMANDS JUSTICE



**Clockwise from top, Gonosonghoti Andolon stages a sit-in in Bandar Gate No 2 area in support of yesterday's daylong hartal called by Narayanganj District Lawyers Association, protesting the abduction and subsequent killing of seven people including lawyer Chandan Sarker and Panel Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation Nazrul Islam. Students chant slogans demanding justice in Deovog area. Councillors and the mayor of NCC stage a sit-in in front of Nagar Bhaban demanding punishment for the perpetrators. Amra Narayanganj Bashi, a citizens' platform, brings out a procession in Chashara area.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## New online news portal launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An online news portal, newsnextbd.com, was launched with the slogan "Cares Nothing but Accuracy" at a ceremony yesterday.

Launching the web portal at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said a free press is the prerequisite of a strong democracy.

Commending the journalist community for its "courageous" reporting on recent cases of abduction and murders, he said journalists enjoy full press freedom in Bangladesh.

Earlier, a discussion

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## Stand by people in times of sickness, grief

PM tells physicians at 12th convocation of BCPS

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged specialist physicians to stand by the country's working class people as trusted friends in times of their sickness and grief.

She made the call while addressing the 12th convocation of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Reminding the physicians of common people's contributions to their degrees, Hasina said the nation had a lot of expectations from the specialist doctors.

"A soft touch of physicians, and their little sympathy can substantially increase the mental strength of patients," she said.

The PM expressed the hope that the physicians would dedicate themselves through their Medicare services to the welfare of the distressed and poor people, and play an

effective role in bringing smile on their faces. Hasina also mentioned the role of BCPS in improving the standard of healthcare system by creating postgraduates and specialised physicians through examinations, training, research, workshops and seminars.

In this regard, she said about 4,173 specialised physicians had so far obtained FCPS and 2,295 others got MCPS membership from the BCPS, and are serving various medical colleges and other health institutions of the country.

Highlighting various measures of her government for development of the health sector, she said a time-befitting National Health Policy had been formulated to ensure healthcare and Medicare services for the mass people.

She said that her government had also set up 15,600 health centres and community clinics, where around 12 crore poor people are getting healthcare services.

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## 'BASELESS' NEWS CASE Inqilab editor gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Inqilab Editor AMM Bahauddin in a case filed against him for publishing "baseless" news that Indian forces took part in operations in Satkhira ahead of the January 5 polls.

Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ashiqur Rahman passed the order after Bahauddin along with his lawyer surrendered before it and sought bail.

During the yesterday's hearing, his lawyer Sayeed Ahmed Gazi told the court that his client had recently returned home and he was abroad during the time of publishing the news item.

Earlier the Bangla daily's three other journalists - News Editor Rabiullah Rabi, Deputy Chief Reporter Rafiq Mohammad and

Diplomatic Correspondent

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## Missing BCL man's mom seeks PM's help

Blames internal feud as cause for disappearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother yesterday appealed to the prime minister to bring her son back who has been missing for nearly three months.

Rafiqul Islam Sohel, 25, a leader of Sabujbagh thana unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), went missing on February 13 after he went to meet his two friends Rasel and Sporsho Ahmed Naser, alleged the mother, Shahanara, at a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association Bangladesh in the capital.

She also blamed Dulal, uncle of Russel's wife, Mou Begum, for being involved in disappearance of Sohel.

Sohel went out after receiving a call from his friends and did not return, said victim's brother, Shafiqul Islam Sazal. Quoting police, Sazal said Sohel, Rasel, Naser and Dulal were last located in Narayanganj by tracking their cellphones.

The family along with locals of Basabo in Dhaka and other BCL activists held several meetings with the accused to resolve the issues and found one of the two SIM cards of Sohel from Dulal.

In the meetings, Dulal confessed that they took Sohel to search Russel's wife.

Sohel gave his SIM to Dulal to activate it in his phone as



Sohel

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## Presidents of JCD, BNP's volunteers' front get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to the presidents of Jatiyatabadi Swachhchhasebak Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for six months in 13 cases filed for violence and arson attacks in the capital last year.

Swachhchhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel got bail in nine cases and JCD President Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel in all the four cases against him, Masud Rana, a counsel to the leaders, told The Daily Star.

There is no legal bar to Jewel to get released from jail, but Sohel cannot since he has been shown arrested in some other cases, he added.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed granted the bail after hearing bail petitions filed by the accused.

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**A fruit vendor at Baitul Mukarram market in the capital showing a bunch of litchis from the first batch that has arrived from Sonargaon in Narayanganj on Saturday. The price is still quite high at Tk 500 to Tk 600 per hundred, as the season is still at the beginning.**

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

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