



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

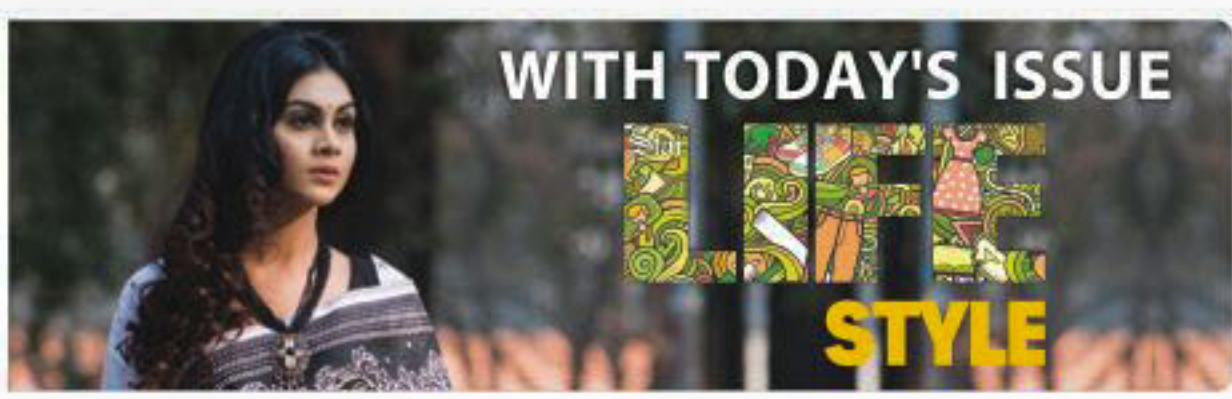
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20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVI No. 34 | FALGUN 4, 1422 BS | JAMADIUL AWAL 6, 1437 HIJRI



OLMERT JAIL TERM

The Israel ex-PM begins 19-month sentence for bribery

PAGE 8

BAFTAS 2016

DiCaprio named best actor, as 'Revenant' rules at the ceremony

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Trade union in EPZs gets nod

4.4 lakh workers of 453 factories to get the rights as cabinet gives final approval to draft law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday finally gave the nod to the draft Bangladesh EPZ Labour Law 2016, with provisions for forming legal trade unions in factories inside of the Export Processing Zones (EPZ).

Allowing trade unions in factories was the last of the 16 conditions set by the US to be fulfilled by the Bangladesh government for regaining the GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) in the US market.

Bangladesh government has already submitted the progress report on the implementation of 16 conditions to the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the chief trade negotiation body for the US government, for reinstatement of the GSP privilege.

The GSP was suspended for Bangladesh in June, 2013, due to serious shortcomings in workplace safety and labour rights.

Apart from suspending the GSP benefit after the Rana Plaza building collapse, the US government gave the 16 conditions as "Bangladesh Action Plan".

The government made delays in allowing unions in the EPZs, as the foreign investors were divided on the issue. Investors of some countries said the unions would hamper the production while others argued that the unions would establish labour rights.

If this draft, which amends EPZ Workers' Welfare and Industrial Relations Act, 2010, is passed by parliament and made into law, the Workers' Welfare Associations (WWA) in factories inside of the EPZs would act as the legal trade unions.

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A part of the playground at the capital's Green Road government staff quarters is now being used as a kitchen market. A public works ministry signboard prohibits setting up of shops or markets there but traders, under the aegis of some influential people, are doing business at the place. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Foreigners in ATM fraud ring

More than 200 card users lose data after four ATMs of three private banks skimmed off

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Foreigners are believed to be involved in the skimming racket that stole money from ATMs in signs of new financial crimes that rattled both banks and customers.

Bangladesh Bank, three commercial banks and police analysed video footage of four ATM booths that were skimmed off at least Tk 25 lakh last week.

At least two foreigners seem to be directly involved in the crimes, Shubhanker Saha, executive director and spokesman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

35 AND COUNTING

TOTAL 35 cases

DEFAMATION 27 cases

SEDITION 8 Charges

DEFAMATION CLAIM Tk 61,026.50 cr

Case spree on

Star editor faces 17 more defamation suits, sedition charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen more cases, including six for sedition, were filed against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam in 17 districts yesterday.

With these cases, he faces 35 lawsuits so far. Eight of them are complaints seeking to sue the editor for sedition while the rest are defamation suits.

The galore of lawsuits comes days after the Star editor at a talk show on February 3 made

an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgement in publishing a few reports based on information given by the Taskforce Interrogation Cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government without being able to verify them independently.

Following yesterday's defamation suits, four courts in Rangpur, Chapainawabganj, Khagrachhari and Natore summoned Mahfuz Anam to appear before them on March 1, April 28, March 16 and March 30

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Hill cutting continues at Mohammadpur Bodikona in Sylhet Sadar upazila for construction of roads and houses. Locals allege that a section of influential people have been cutting hills in the area by "managing the authorities". The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM Boy rescued from Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested two alleged kidnappers and rescued a five-year-old boy in Gazipur on Sunday, around one and a half months after his abduction from the capital's Uttara area.

The arrestees are Abdul Jabbar and his wife Nazma Begum. Jabbar abducted Mobarak, son of Mohammad Faruk, a fruit vendor, from in front of his house in Uttara's sector-9 on December 29 last year while he was playing, said detectives.

The abductors kept the boy confined to Nazma's house at Mauna in Gazipur. Jabbar had been demanding Tk 5 lakh as ransom for the boy's release.

They had frequently threatened over the phone about killing the boy if the family informed police.

Jabbar was arrested from the home of his another wife Selina at Saghata in Gaibandha on Sunday, said Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



MG!

"Chairperson Khaleda Zia's remarks on the number of Liberation War martyrs were contextually correct."

BNP ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR AT A PROGRAMME AT THE SUPREME COURT AUDITORIUM

VERDICT LEAK CASE SQ Chy's wife, son indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against the wife and son of executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and five others for allegedly leaking the draft verdict of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that sentenced him to death.

The ICT-1 on October 1, 2013, had awarded capital punishment to the BNP leader for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The seven accused are: Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury, son Humam Quader Chowdhury, manager Mahbulul Ahsan, counsel Fakhru Islam, Fakhru's assistant Mehedi Hasan, the tribunal's then office assistant Faruk Hossain and peon Nayan Ali.

Of them, Farhat, Humam, Fakhru and Ahsan are on bail, Faruk and Nayan behind bars while Mehedi has been on the run.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

মেয়ের গ্রুপ অব ইডাফ্লিক্স এর একটি পণ্য

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