



DITF ENDS
The month-long Dhaka trade fair logs Tk 88cr in sales

PAGE B1

OF GRACE AND RHYTHM
Performers from across the country take part in Chhayanaut's classical dance fest

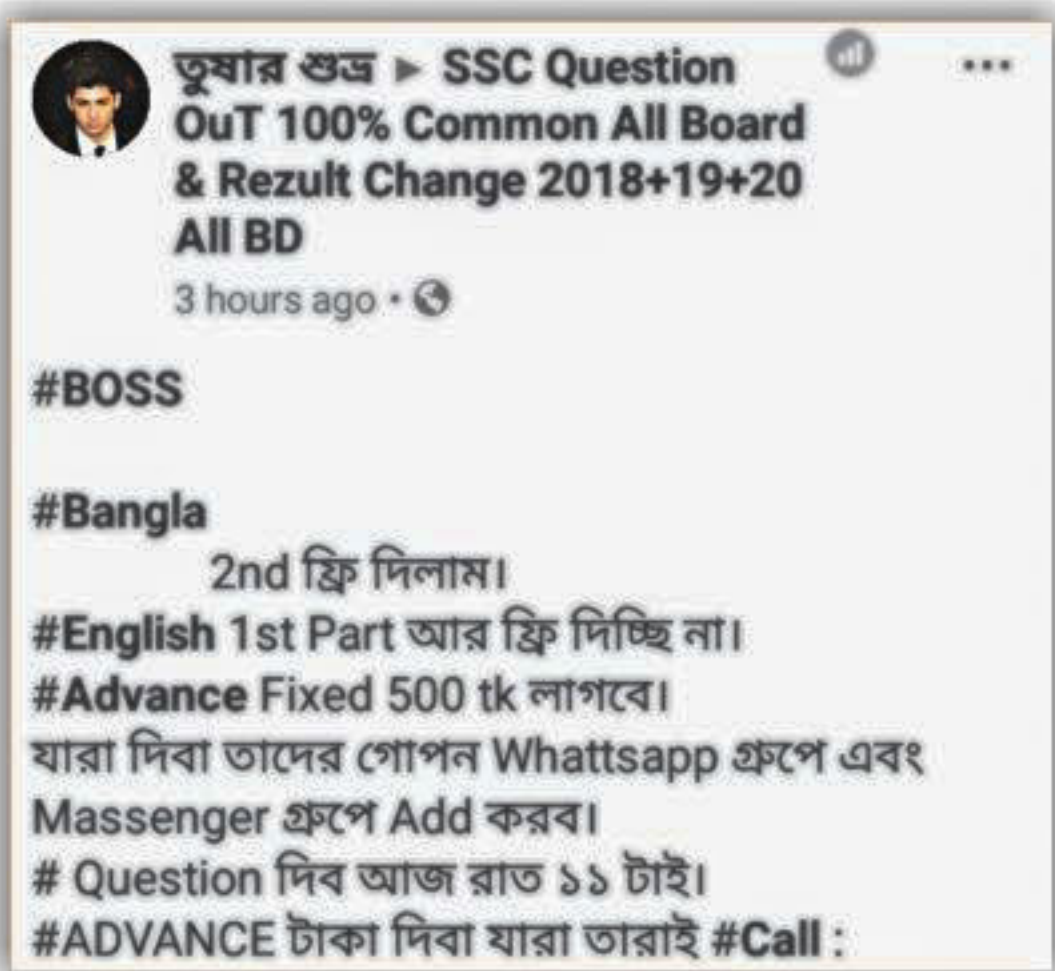
PAGE 9

NOW IT'S UMA THURMAN
The Kill Bill star breaks silence on disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein

PAGE 8

At mercy of 'leak-sters'

SSC English question paper up for sale at Tk 500 when education minister declares Tk 5 lakh bounty on culprits



M ABUL KALAM AZAD and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Around the time Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid declared Tk 5 lakh bounty for helping catch those involved in question papers leak, several Facebook groups and accounts were offering the English first paper question for Tk 500 each.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Mominul Haque became the first Bangladesh batsman to hit centuries in both innings of a Test match, but more importantly his 105 helped salvage a draw on the fifth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
www.ssgil.com

Mominul, Liton save the day

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chittagong

Mominul Haque's second century of the match and a Test-saving 180-run fourth-wicket stand with Liton Das helped Bangladesh overcome their second-innings hoodoo on way to securing a draw on the fifth and last day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Mominul became the first Bangladesh batsman to score centuries in both innings of a Test match, adding yesterday's 105 in the second innings to the mammoth 176 in the first innings. In the process he also tallied the highest total in a single Test match among Bangladesh batsmen, going past opener Tamim Iqbal's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

BUSINESS

DSE suffers biggest fall in 4.5 years

The Dhaka Stock Exchange saw its biggest fall in four and a half years yesterday as political unease looms large on investors' minds.

The DSEX, the benchmark general index of the premier bourse, fell 133.15 points, or 2.21 percent, to close the day at 5,888.29, the lowest in three months.

Selling pressure was seen on stocks from banks, financial institutions, and engineering sectors. Turnover, however, rose 10.76 percent from the previous session to Tk 364.90 crore.

READ MORE ON B1

Maldives political crisis deepens

Govt warns top court against impeaching president over his refusal to release political prisoners; 2 opposition MPs held

AFP, Malé

The beleaguered Maldives government yesterday ordered police and troops to resist any move by the Supreme Court to arrest or impeach President Abdulla Yameen over his refusal to release political prisoners.

Police detained two opposition lawmakers as they returned to the country yesterday, as the political crisis in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation deepened with its top court pitted against the president.

The main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) said its MPs tried to stage a meeting in defiance of a weekend order suspending parliament, but they were pushed back by armed troops.

Security forces have been deployed inside the national parliament -- known as the People's Majlis -- since March last year when Yameen ordered them to evict dissident lawmakers.

The president's crackdown on dissent has tarnished the Maldives' image as an upmarket holiday paradise and sparked calls from the United Nations and several countries to restore the rule of law in the fledgling democracy.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Abdulla Yameen

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Large number of staffers involved in graft: AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citing irregularities in the judicial and administrative functions of the Supreme Court's High Court Division, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said the "judiciary had seen degradation" in the last few years, and the image of the HC had changed.

The image of the whole judiciary is being damaged by some HC judges' failure to run their courts properly, he said, adding that a number of court officials and employees were involved in corruption.

The attorney general made the comments while speaking at a function organised to accord felicitations to newly appointed Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain at the Courtroom-1 of the SC's Appellate Division.

"Earlier, I had mentioned some examples of degradation of this court [HC] during the felicitations to a chief justice.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

BNP 'upbeat' after chief's call for unity

Plans 'peaceful protest' if Khaleda convicted on February 8

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Saturday's national executive committee meeting was a big morale boost for the BNP as it helped remove confusions and divisions within the party, say its senior leaders.

At the meeting, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia called upon leaders and activists to remain united ahead of the next parliamentary elections. In response, fellow party men expressed absolute loyalty to her and said they would not participate in polls without her.

"We are happy and the executive committee members are also upbeat after the meeting. Madam [Khaleda] at the meeting said there is no room for any reckless decision and all have to remain united in the coming days," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday.

At the same time, he said executive committee members

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



TOP QUOTE

"He is small in size but he does big things. I just want to say that he has a very big heart. He has been performing for Bangladesh very consistently, and I hope that he performs even better."

BANGLADESH CAPTAIN MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD ON BATSMAN MOMINUL HAQUE



No need to put pressure on govt

PM on teachers' movements

UNB, Dhaka

Pointing to recent movements by various sections of teachers to have their demands realised, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it would not be possible to get any demand fulfilled by putting pressure on the government.

"If anyone thinks it's the last year of the government, and we [government] will fulfill all the demands they are placing, that's wrong. I don't care about power. It matters little to me whether I'll be there in power or not," she said.

The PM was addressing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A Dhaka North City Corporation street sweeping truck cleaning Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday. The two Dhaka city corporations imported a number of them in the last couple of years.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Why police so ruthless to us?'

Rape victim asks; alleging her brother was sent to jail as the family refused to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The investigation officer of a rape case claimed to have found the involvement of the victim's brother more than a year and a half after the incident and the court based on that sent him to jail on January 29.

This happened, according to the victim, because her family refused to withdraw the rape case filed against their neighbour Paritosh Chandra Devsharma.

Paritosh, 26, had been arrested after the case was filed with Dinajpur court on May 12, 2016, and sent to Dinajpur jail.

The 18-year-old rape victim went public on Saturday. At a press conference, she said, "We still don't know why police have been so ruthless towards us instead of being sympathetic."

Police had been mounting pressure on her family members to make an out-of-court settlement. On January 28, they were asked to go to Bochaganj Police Station and persuaded to withdraw the case, the victim said.

But when the family refused to do so, investigation officer Abu Taleb asked Prodig Chandra Devsharma, the girl's brother, to stay back at the police station and asked other family members to go home, she added.

"The next day, we heard that my brother had been sent to jail for raping me," the girl who studied up to class-V said in tears.

"Police brought such heinous charges against my own brother to humiliate my family socially."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4