

INFLATION SLOWS

The rate falls to a two-year low in November

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DAY TO REMEMBER A HERO

Today is the 43rd death anniversary of Bir Shrestha Ruhul Amin

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GLOBAL WARMING

Time is running out to limit it to safer levels, warns Ban Ki-moon

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Hit by a cargo vessel, a tanker sinking in the Shela river at Joymonir Ghol in the east range of the Sundarbans early yesterday. Inset, oil floating on the water.

PHOTO: STAR

TANKER SINKS IN RIVER ALONG SUNDARBANS

Oil spill getting larger

STAR REPORT

A tanker carrying 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil sank in a Sundarbans river near Mongla early yesterday, spilling oil over a vast area of the world's largest mangrove forest.

If the authorities fail to contain the spill that continued till last night, it might deal a serious blow to the biodiversity of the forest, say experts.

The exact extent of the spill could not yet be determined.

Forest officials, however, said oil had already spread over a 20-kilometre stretch, up to the Pasur river on one side, from Mrigamari in the Shela river where the tanker, Southern Star-7, went down around 5:00am.

The affected areas include Joymonir Ghol, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Will gift work?

Tk 3.5cr SUV bought illegally with LGED project fund for minister; retiring chief engineer 'lobbies' for job extension

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

What gift worth how much can buy one a favour, if any? It depends. For Wahidur Rahman, whether a Tk 3.5 crore project SUV he has presented to LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam can keep him in office will be clear in a few days.

Wahidur holds the office of the chief engineer at the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), an office known for its wild corruption.

Insiders say he did not want to leave such a lucrative office. So, upon completion of his service tenure on December 11, 2010, he played his first card: freedom fighter's certificate. By submitting the certificate, he secured three years' extension in two phases.

There is nothing wrong in that, only it later emerged that his name was not on the freedom fighters' list (Red Book). Subsequently, the Anti-Corruption Commission found the engineer resorted to cheating to obtain the certificate, sources said.

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Wahidur Rahman



SENATE REPORT ON POST-9/11 GRILLING CIA brutality well beyond limits

REUTERS, Washington

The CIA routinely misled the White House and Congress over its harsh interrogation programme for terrorism suspects and its methods, which included waterboarding, were more brutal than the agency acknowledged, a Senate report said yesterday.

The programme, devised by two agency contractors to squeeze information from suspects after the September 11, 2001 attacks, was ineffective and never led to the disruption of a single plot, the report by the Senate Intelligence Committee said.

The programme ran from 2002 to 2006 and involved questioning al-Qaeda and other captives in secret detention facilities in various countries, including Afghanistan, Poland, Romania and Thailand.

The report, which followed a five-year investigation, found the techniques used were "far more brutal" than the CIA told the public or policymakers. Its release prompted a boost of security at US facilities abroad.

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SHOCKING TECHNIQUES

"Rectal rehydration", or rectal feeding, without any medical need, which at least five CIA detainees were subjected to

Threatening to harm the families of at least three detainees, including sexually abusing the mother of a detainee

Approving the use of insects against a detainee "placed in a confinement box"

Keeping a partially nude detainee chained to a concrete floor; the prisoner later died of hypothermia

Sleep deprivation for up to 180 hours, at times with the detainees' hands shackled above their heads

SOURCE: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



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