



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star  
**theSTAR**  
stories behind the news



FUEL OIL

BPC may see profits this fiscal, for the first time in 13 years

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DEAL SEALED

Russia will help India build at least 10 more nuclear reactors

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# Five killed in bizarre crash

20 hurt as people illegally travelling on oil train fall down in Joypurhat

STAR REPORT

In a bizarre railroad accident, five people were killed and some 20 injured in Joypurhat yesterday evening, falling off an oil train they were travelling on illegally.

About 30 people were sitting on couplers of the 12-wagon train from Khulna bound for Parbatipur.

A coupler keeps two train carriages together. Poor people often travel on train roofs, footboards and couplers, an illegal practice that poses serious risks of accidents.

Around 5:00pm, at least three tankers from the rear got delinked from the train near Shimultoli village, about 5km south of Panchbibi station.

Leaving behind those wagons, the engine kept rolling forward, said Sumon Chowdhury, local correspondent of daily Bhorer Kagoj, who rushed to the spot hearing about the accident.

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Children scoop up the furnace oil from the Shela river and deposit it in a trench so that it could be sold later on. To help with the clean-up after the oil spill on Tuesday near the Sundarbans, the BIWTA had announced that locals could collect and sell the oil. The photo was taken at Badamtola near where the oil tanker had sunk.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# Bangladeshi muezzin shot dead in KSA

His fault was slight delay in azan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inside a mosque near Riyadh, a Saudi Arabian man shot a Bangladeshi muezzin dead reportedly for failing to make prayer call on time.

The deceased, Mohammed Rafiq Islam, 32, was a resident of Kholapara village of Ashuganj under Brahmanbaria, said Mizanur Rahman, second secretary (labour wing) at Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh.

The incident took place around 3:30pm Sunday during Asr prayers inside the mosque at Ortawwiyah in Majmaah district, 30km from the Riyadh city centre, the embassy official told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

He also said the Saudi man, who was the nephew of Rafiq's employer in that country, was infuriated as the Bangladeshi reportedly made 15-minute delay in making the prayer call that day.

"Later, the killer opened fire on Rafiq and another man inside the mosque," Mizanur added.

According to Arab News when Saudi police arrived at

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# Gift didn't work

Controversial chief engineer of LGED shown the door

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

He served as chief of the Local Government Engineering Department for six years, and wielded immense power during his stint.

But his last day in office was not like what he had

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



# Animals start to die

Villagers take seepage off river water along Sundarbans; oil tanker salvaged

PINAKI ROY, from Mongla

The air around the Sundarbans is thick and it smells foul. The black slick flowing down the Shela and Pashur rivers, covering grasses and plants on their banks, gives a

feeling that it is not the world's biggest mangrove forest, rather an industrial city cursed by civilisation's waste.

Animals have started to die. The water hyacinths on the two rivers have turned black. Some Golpata trees have gone under

heavy layers of oil.

One local, Abu Jafar, spotted two animals -- a monitor lizard and an otter -- dead and smeared with oil along the banks of the Shela.

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# MEETING WITH KHALEDA Joint secy forced into retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After being an officer on special duty for more than six years, joint secretary AKM Jahangir, who had reportedly met BNP chief Khaleda Zia a week ago, was sent on forced retirement yesterday.

A gazette notification issued by the public administration ministry mentioned no specific reason but stated that Jahangir had been sent on retirement in "public interest".

State Minister for Public Administration Ministry Ismat Ara Sadique and Senior Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser told media on Sunday that having such a meeting was a serious breach of civil service rules.

They said an enquiry was going on and action would be taken against all who attended the meeting.

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan claimed to have gotten a list of the people present in the meeting with Khaleda but he did not disclose the names.

A day after the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina categorically told a news

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COMMENTARY

# Human Rights or Human 'Farce' Day

Are we moving towards a polity of 'sanctioned thuggery'?

MAHFUZ ANAM

That is what our Human Rights Day is -- a farce. A country that has shameful number of extrajudicial killings, extremely high number of disappearances and, most disturbingly, a government which is at best nonchalant or at worst tacitly acquiescing of it can only observe the International Humans Rights day as a human 'farce' day.

There was a time when we were known for our poverty. Thankfully those days are partly over. However now we are more and more becoming known as a country increasingly indifferent to violations of human rights and one that sanctions organised thuggery by ruling party musclemen and more disturbingly by law enforcers themselves.

According to the highly regarded and prestigious human rights body, Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), 250 people were abducted allegedly by law enforcers between 2007 and 2013, and only last year 69 people were picked up by police or Rab or people pretending to belong to these bodies. In the first 10 months of this year 118 people were killed in so-called "shootouts" between law enforcers and those who were picked up. Last year the figure was 208 for extrajudicial killings.

Tragically custodial deaths or killings by our law enforcers have become mere figures. They do not seem to make any impact on the mind of our government. Most infuriatingly, in none of the above cases did the government feel even an iota of responsibility as the protector life and property of every single citizen of the country.

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