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OIL SPILL in SUNDARBANS

Fund crunch hits recovery

Foresters have yet to receive a grant from the government even a week after an oil tanker sank and spilled around 3.56 lakh litres of furnace oil in the Shela river in the Sundarbans.

Officials at the local Chandpai forest station said they had been "managing the expenses locally". But scores of hired workers alleged they had got only a partial payment, while some claimed they did not get any payment at all.

However, the divisional forest officer at Chandpai said the environment and forest ministry had allocated funds to handle the disaster.

"We have got Tk 2 lakh to pay for the workers and other costs. We have got clearance papers at our Bagerhat forest office," said Divisional Forest Officer Amir Hossain Chowdhury of Chandpai Range in the Sundarbans.

An existing fund crunch has so far been affecting the oil cleaning efforts taken by the Department of Forest.

The workers alleged they were working upon verbal assurance from the local foresters but not getting the payment accordingly.

"Though we were supposed to get Tk 500 per day they only paid Tk 250," said a worker, identifying himself as Kamal Khan.

Another worker, Md Sohel Rana, said he was supposed to get Tk 1,000 for a boat and Tk 500 for each worker. "We have stopped working for the forest department as they have given us only half of that amount."

Several workers, who initially joined the clean-up operation spontaneously, did not continue for not getting any payment at all.

Asked, Belayet Hossain, assistant forest conservator of Chandpai Range, said some workers had worked only half day and were paid accordingly.

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Two swans apparently soaked in oil at Joymunirgol on the bank of the River Pasur yesterday. Inset, a local removes oil from a piece of wood. He then heats the sticky substance to make it lose density.



PHOTO: PINAKI ROY

15 teachers, staff hurt in V-Day attack in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 15 teachers and officials of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) were injured in a clash between two groups of teachers and officials of the university yesterday.

Around 11:00am, teachers, students and officials of the BRUR, led by Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, brought out a procession on the campus to celebrate the Victory Day and paraded the adjacent areas, said witnesses and university sources.

After placing floral wreaths at the university Shaheed Minar, they held a meeting on the Victory Day at the same place.

While the rally was going on, another group of teachers, students and officials of the university, under the banner of "Begum Rokeya University Teachers' Association", brought out another procession and went to the Shaheed Minar for placing floral wreaths.

The teachers' association members then snatched the

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Tarique this time calls Bangabandhu a razakar

STAR REPORT

In another outrageous comment on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, BNP senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman termed him "a big Razakar" for having banned the Awami League after the liberation of Bangladesh.

"The Awami League claims that it's a pro-liberation party but Sheikh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The memories of a bloody December

Recalls Pak journalist

DAWN, Islamabad

On March 23, 1971, the flag of Bangladesh was put up in East Pakistan. At the time, Ali Ahmed Khan was a journalist in Dhaka.

"I worked for a progressive Urdu weekly, Pasban, which promoted the rights of East Pakistan and consistently campaigned for the restoration of democracy under military rule," he says, with a sense of fondness.

But as the memories take a turn for the grim, his eyes cloud over.

"It was the night of March 25. From my own home, in a predominantly Urdu-speaking part of Dhaka, all we could hear was gunfire," he says. From the direction of the slums where most working-class Bengalis lived, he saw flames leaping upwards.

"Smoke filled the air and the sky turned



Ali Ahmed Khan

red, this is what I remember of Operation Searchlight," he recalls.

"Ours was a divided family; some lived in East Pakistan and some in the west. In East Pakistan, my family home was in the town of Dinajpur. After the operation, the country erupted into a violent reaction as the liberation movement was launched and many Urdu-speaking families were attacked. I heard from people coming into Dhaka that the town had seen some terrible violence."

"I boarded a train and rushed to my family. I remember walking into the garden and smelling the pineapples my parents had fondly planted. The home was all but destroyed. Our things were strewn about everywhere; my father's books, my brother's

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CU VIOLENCE Murder case against 45 BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A classmate of Taposh Chandra Sarker, a Chittagong University Chhatra League activist shot dead in Sunday's factional fight on the campus, has filed a murder case accusing 45 leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League's student wing.

Hafizul Islam, a Sanskrit department student, lodged the case with Hathazari Police Station yesterday accusing 30 named and 15 unnamed BCL men, said Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The accused include cultural secretary of the dissolved committee of CU BCL Ashrafuzzaman Asha,

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Road crash kills 7 in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Seven people, including two of a family, were killed and nine others injured as a truck rammed a human hauler and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Habiganj Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The accident took place in Sutang Bridge area around 7:30am when the speedy Dhaka-bound truck hit the other two vehicles from behind in the fog, said SM Nazim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Sadar Police Station.

The human hauler was overtaking the CNG-run auto-rickshaw at that time. Two people were killed on the spot and five others succumbed to their injuries on way to the hospital, he added.

Among the dead, four were the passengers of the auto-rickshaw while the others were travelling by the human hauler. The injured were being treated at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Even though the truck was seized, the driver fled, added the OC.

Immediately after the accident, aggrieved locals blocked the highway for nearly two hours. They left the highway on police assurance.

The dead are Nokul Bibi, 45, and her daughter Ambia Khatun, 20, of Rahmatpur village under Baniachang upazila of Habiganj, Muklis Ali, 60, of Osmanpur under

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

66 journo killed across globe this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 66 journalists have been murdered across the world this year while performing their duties, says a report of Reporters Without Borders.

With the latest figure, a total of 720 journalists have been killed in connection with their work in the last one decade.

This year alone saw the abduction of 119 journalists -- 35 percent higher than last year's. Forty journalists are still held hostage, said the report released by the Paris-based press freedom watchdog yesterday.

Bangladesh was ranked 146th among the 180 countries in 2014 Press Freedom Index of the organisation that promotes and defends the freedom of the press and

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the Shipping Minister Shahajhan Khan to say that sinking oil tanker would not damage the Sundarbans?

Yes I (02%)
No (98%)

TOTAL VOTES: 169

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that Bangladesh government should have sought foreign assistance to control oil spread in Sundarbans?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 17

Fazr	Azan	Jamaat
5-20	5-55	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Meet the 11-yr-old CEO from Detroit

MAIL ONLINE

An 11-year-old girl with an impeccable sales pitch has been running her own successful company for six years.

Michigan native Asia Newton, the co-founder and CEO of a candle company called Super Business Girl, has become so successful during that time that she is now known as 'Detroit's youngest entrepreneur'.

Asia makes the candles at home, with help from her parents, and sells them on the street, using the proceeds from her sales to pay for her own school supplies as well as clothing and food that she donates to needy children.

Asia demonstrated her confident pitch on ABC News' 20/20 last week; a camera followed her as she approached strangers and tried to convince them to invest in her growing business.

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We deeply Mourn

ONE Bank Family deeply mourns the sad demise of **Mr. Hedayet Hossain Chowdhury**, Chairman of Karnaphuli Group, prominent Industrialist, Philanthropist, and eminent Social Worker. He breathed his last on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 8.22 am at United Hospital, Dhaka, at the age of 84. Inna Lillah WA Inna Lillahi Raji'un.

(Truly, to Allah we belong and truly to Him we shall return). He is survived by his three sons, Mr. Sayeed H. Chowdhury, Chairman of HRC Group & ONE Bank Limited, Mr. Sadeque H. Chowdhury, a reputed Businessman, Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury, Honorable Member of Parliament and President of IPU and a number of grandchildren and a host of well wishers. We, ONE Bank Family, pray for the salvation of the departed soul and express our profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

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