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TRANSFORM CARE 16212

RECRUITMENT AT CAG TIB worried at ministers' 'interference'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed concern over some ministers' intervention in the ongoing recruitment process at the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Six ministers, two state ministers, chairman of a parliamentary standing committee and one central leader of the ruling party have made written recommendations and created pressure on officials to recruit certain candidates at the CAG, it said.

According to the anti-corruption watchdog, 10,000 candidates out of 16,000 have passed the written test for 36 posts at the CAG.

"Against such a backdrop, such interventions

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

A child on his bike carrying a dead egret at Sirajdikhan near Dhaka-Mawa highway yesterday while a man who had actually killed the bird with his air rifle rides another bike, inset, ahead of him. The hunting of wild birds increases in the country during the winter.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



REVENGE ATTACK Two NY cops shot dead

Gunman kills himself

AGENCIES

A gunman shot dead two New York City police officers and then killed himself, police said, after a social media post indicated he may have been seeking revenge for the death of an unarmed black man during an arrest attempt.

The two New York City Police Department officers, Rafael Ramos, 40, and Wenjian Liu, 32, were ambushed in their patrol car Saturday afternoon, said NYPD Police Commissioner William Bratton.

"They were quite simply assassinated, targeted for their uniforms," he told a news conference after the attack, the first in which NYPD officers had been killed by gunfire since 2011.

President Barack Obama condemned the killings, saying "two brave men

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

India to hand over Nur Hossain soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is likely to hand over Nur Hossain, the main accused in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, soon, said Mozammel Huq Khan, secretary of the home ministry.

"We have directed the police to take all necessary measures to bring him back following India's external affairs ministry's letter last week." In the letter, India wanted to know where and when it could hand over Nur who is now imprisoned in Kolkata.

He was arrested with two other Bangladeshis in a Kolkata apartment on June 14 for not having any document required for entering the country.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



OIL SPILL in SUNDARBANS Stop movement of vessels in Shela

Govt probe body 'recommends', calls for continuous monitoring to assess impact

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government committee probing the Sundarbans oil spill has recommended a permanent halt to the operation of cargo vessels through the Shela river in the mangrove forest, said one of its members yesterday.

It also suggested conducting periodic studies to assess long-term impact of the oil spill from the December 9 sinking of a tanker in the river, he added, wishing not to be named.

"The probe committee didn't find very severe immediate impact of the accident. But we have recommended conducting a continuous close moni-

toring as the forest is very sensitive."

Additional Secretary Nurul Karim, who leads the seven-member committee, said they had finalised the probe report. Now it requires signatures of some members who live in Khulna.

He declined to say anything more about the report. The committee comprising environment and mangrove experts and government officials was formed immediately after the Southern Star-7 sank having been hit by a cargo vessel.

Talking to some members of the committee, The Daily Star learnt that a quarter has been trying to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Black, white tomatoes grow in same plant

MAIL ONLINE

A British horticulturalist has created the world's first black and white tomato plant by blending two rare strains together.

Tomato experts at Sutton Seeds have a history for pioneering plants, having previously created the first ever black strain which they named Indigo Rose.

For their latest creation, the green-fingered gardeners blended Indigo Rose with a white-cherry

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



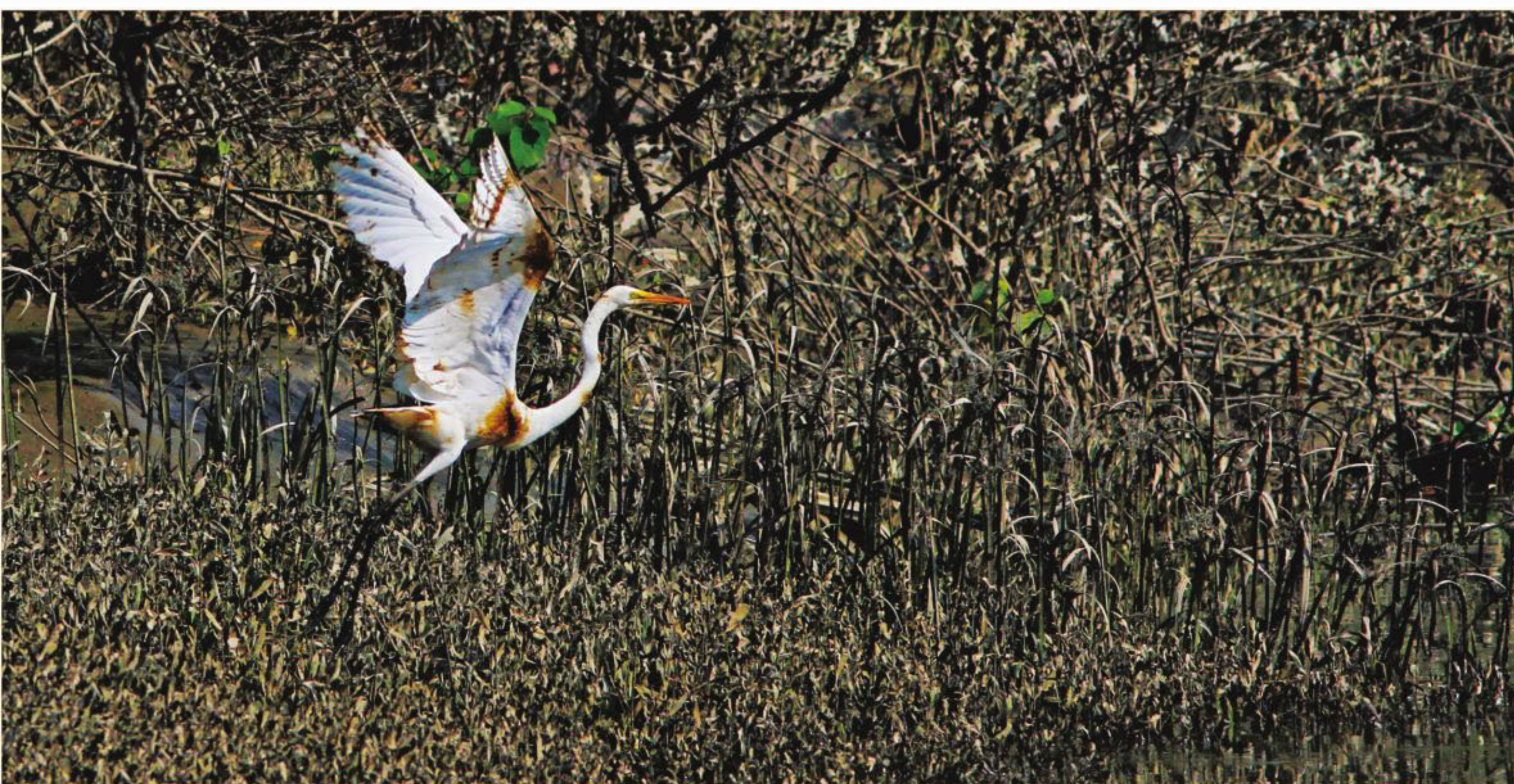
FREEDOM in the air

SAM JAHAN

While trying in vain to quell the Banglaeas' struggle for freedom, the Pakistani military turned mad dogs during the nine months of the 1971 Liberation War.

Trampling on the Geneva Conventions, they brutally tortured their captives,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A Great Egret with stains of oil on its white feathers trying to fly on the bank of the Shela river in the Sundarbans. Southern Star-7 went down in the river with over 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil damaging the eco-sensitive area on December 9.

PHOTO COURTESY: MONIRUL H KHAN

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain that the situation of governance and economy of the country is now abnormal?

Yes (79%)

No (21%)

TOTAL VOTES: 305

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there is a tendency of political parties to exert overwhelming influence on state and non-state institutions in Bangladesh?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Cuba won't change political system

Says Raul Castro hailing US-Cuba thaw

AGENCIES

Cuban President Raul Castro said Saturday he was ready to discuss any topic with Washington after the historic bilateral rapprochement, but warned not to expect political change.

And while the leader of the Americas' only communist nation hailed the agreement for removing of an "obstacle" in US-Cuba relations, he reiterated that "the most



important thing, the end of the embargo" remained unresolved.

Castro spoke at the close of the twice-yearly meeting of the one-party National Assembly, which unanimously ratified the deal between Havana and Washington, in a session largely focused on the island's historic renewal of ties with Washington.

"The Cuban people cheer this correct

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Outlaw killed in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party was found dead in the district's Khoksa upazila early yesterday.

Akram Ali alias Bhadu, also known as Bhadu

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING December 22

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fazr | 5-25 | 6-00 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 3-45 | 4-00 |
| Maghrib | 5-24 | 5-27 |
| Esha | 7-00 | 7-30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

দেশজুড়ে সমৃদ্ধির ভিত্তি স্থাপনে আমরা নিবেদিত

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