City NEWS 10 The Daily Star DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2015

### Two more bodies found

Launch capsize death toll now 80

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more bodies were recovered from the river Padma at Dohar in Dhaka on Wednesday night and yesterday morning, raising the death toll in the Padma launch accident to

The body of the seven-year-old girl Maria was recovered around 11:00pm on Wednesday and that of Mehfuz, 35, around 11:00am yesterday from Joypara area, Mahfuzul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dohar Police Station, Maria was a resident of Rajbari

and Mehfuz of Bogra. Both bodies were handed over to their relatives, the OC added. Meanwhile, the parliamentary

standing committee on shipping

ministry yesterday recommended that the Department of Shipping prepare a set of proposals for prevention of accidents in waterways. The proposals are to be placed at

the committee's next meeting, a press release said. The committee's recommenda-

tions came at its 11th meeting at the parliament yesterday, five days after the Padma launch disaster that caused the death of at least 80 peo-

The committee also suggested the ministry keep two oil-tankers reserved to continue river communication during times of emergencies. The committee Chairman Rafiqul

Islam (Bir Uttam) chaired the meeting attended by Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, among others. The single-decker vessel MV

Mostafa sank with around 200 passengers in Padma river in Manikganj after being hit by cargo vessel Nargis-1 on Sunday morning. Officials of Manikganj district

administration said at least five people still remain missing as of last

#### Australia warns women ISIS no 'romantic adventure'

AFP, Sydney

A worrying number of Australian women are heading to Iraq and Syria to become so-called Islamic State group "jihadi brides", Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said yesterday, warning against notions of a "romantic adventure". At least 110 Australians have left to

fight alongside militants in the Middle East and security officials said between 30 and 40 women were among them or were actively supporting the group in Australia. "Sadly we are seeing a younger

cohort seeking to join the conflict in Syria and Iraq and an increasing number of young females," Bishop said, responding to the high-profile case this week of three British teenage girls heading to Syria.

"This defies logic. Family and friends need to reach out to young people at risk before it's too late."

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water just 10 years from now. "Global warming has caused us so

much problems," Joseph Swan, a Kivalina elder, told the Washington Post. "The ice does not freeze like it used to. It used to be like ten to eight feet thick, way out in the ocean." The issue has taken on the shape

of an existential proportions, not just for the 400 or so residents Kivalina but for other similar communities in Alaska. And in the years ahead more and more coastal locations are likely to face the threat.

The cost of relocating the village, located 80 miles from the Arctic Circle, could be as high as \$100m.

Over the last 20 years or so, Alaska has emerged as one of the places where the effects of climate change have been the most obvious and clearly on display.

These include a reduction in sea ice, permafrost melting, roads buckling and forests being destroyed

infestations of beetles because of a rise in temperatures.

Ten years ago, Hilary Clinton and John McCain went on a joint factfinding tour of the region to look at the evidence of climate change and were shocked by what they saw.

"The question is how much damage will be done before we start taking concrete action," McCain said at a press conference in Anchorage. "Go up to places like we just came from.

It's a little scary." The report in the Washington Post said the plight of Kivalina had reached the ears of the US govern-

ment.

## No trace of Jubo Dal

FROM PAGE 16 home at Gazipur in the early hours of February 13. "They did not hurt anyone (in the house). They did not take any valuables. Just picked him [Noor] up

"When we asked them where are you taking him [Noor]? A man of the Noor, also a joint secretary of group asked us to contact the local Dhaka City unit Jubo Dal, had been police station," Rina said. staying there to avert arrest, family

contacted several police stations and DB offices in Dhaka and Gazipur but failed to trace Noor's whereabouts.

tals and morgues in the capital and on February 17 in this connection.

Hasan, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "We did not find any information of his [Noor] arrest or detention in our preliminary investigation."

# It's genocide

inside a microbus. They were, of

course, the members of law enforce-

members said, adding that he had

been made accused in six to seven

"political cases" filed in the ongoing

Rina said, "Around 1:00am on

that day, we were woken up hearing

sounds of repeated banging on the

door. As we asked who were knock-

ing the door, they introduced them-

selves as members of the administra-

door. When we opened the door, a

group of 8 to 10 people wielding

firearms entered the room."

"They also asked us to open the

ment agencies," she said.

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blockade.

men. "What kind of cruelty is this? What kind of politics is this? This is not politics... these are entirely terrorist and militant activities," Hasina said. The PM alleged that a particular

quarter was providing necessary

finance, training and other support to the BNP-Jamaat miscreants for committing such heinous acts. "If we have failed to run the country, then they could wage a movement against the government. But, there is

no sign of government failure in Bangladesh," she told her audience. Without mentioning the BNP chairperson's name, she said, why people would have to pay for someone's

wrong political decision. In the name of hartal and blockade, attempts were made to create a terrific situation across the country, Hasina, also chief of the ruling Awami League, said.

When the BNP-Jamaat found that people are not responding to their socalled hartal and blockade, they started hurling petrol bombs on buses, trucks,

trains, and private vehicles killing innocent people, including children and women, she said. Over 100 people have so far been

killed and hundreds more are groaning in the burn units of different hospitals due to arson attacks, the PM said, adding that they had also put the lives of some 15 lakh SSC examinees in danger by announcing agitation programmes. She, on behalf of the nation,

expressed her deep gratitude to the doctors of burn units in hospitals across the country for their tireless efforts to save lives of victims. Hasina mentioned that 84 burn

patients were given family savings certificates worth Tk 10 lakh each, while four were sent abroad for better treatment.

The PM also said data was being collected about those who were killed during the ongoing violence, and their family members would be provided with assistance considering their socio-economic condition.

# Hoolock -- our acrobats

FROM PAGE 16 similar sounds in nature, Lawachhara forest is possibly the best. When you would first hear such a resonating sound in Lawachhara, you are bound to be afraid because the forest is generally silent barring occasional chitchats of birds and monotonous music produced by crickets and cicadas. Such a sound creates terror in our mind. It soon raises hairs in our body. Adrenaline runs high.

the Lawachhara Forest Rest House, many tourists get startled from the species-specific voice notes produced by an animal so rare in Bangladesh. It is Hoolock Gibbon. The Bengali name is Ulluk that is sometimes also called Ban Manush.

Bangladesh is home for a good number of non-human primates. These include lone ape species, I mean tail-less higher ones that include Greater Apes represented by the Bonobo, Chimpanzee, Orangutan and Gorilla as well as Lesser Apes represented only by Gibbons. In Asia, we have Gibbons and Orangutan while the African continent has Gorilla, Chimpanzee and Bonobo. The last one has brain faculty little less than that of human

beings. Hoolock is the only no-human primate of Bangladesh vis-à-vis the Indian subcontinent having no tail. The species in the recent past has been divided into two -- the Western and Eastern Hoolocks. We have in our side only the Western Hoolock (Hoolock hoolock). This particular species extends its range from the hilly forests of Bangladesh in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions to Assam in India and parts of Myanmar.

The Eastern Hoolock (Hoolock leuconedys) lives in the remote eastern tip of Assam to parts of Myanmar and south-west side of the Yunnan province in China. However, bulk of the gibbons, 17 species, live in areas spreading from Myanmar to Indonesia.

If you are patient, can wait for ate, said the Rab-8 CO. hours and not afraid of loneliness in the middle of a jungle, you are likely to be rewarded by a high-flying visit by an acrobat brachiating through the topmost canopy of the most deciduous forests. In this case, the best place for an encounter with our greatest acrobat -- the hoolock -- is our popular tourist destination -- the Lawachhara. It sits next to the tea town of Srimangal and is cut across by the Dhaka-Sylhet rail track as well as a

highway. The forest is encircled by

scores of tea gardens, undulating hills

with or without tall trees and many

tiny-mini chhara.

Many Lawachhara visitors get disappointed as they do neither see nor hear the hoolocks when they have had a short sojourn there. But many are lucky as they not only hear the loud hoots of the hoolocks, but see them from close quarters as I see in some Facebook postings. To see or not to encounter it is a matter of sheer luck!

Of all the non-human primates we have, the hoolock is the most Walking through the short trail by intelligent. This gibbon and all the others in the group have forearms almost double the size of the hand legs. These are so well adapted for brachiating that in a single swing it can cover a distance of over 15 metres. Its feet and hands are so well equipped that it can leap for eight metres or so and can run through the canopies at a speed of nearly 55 km an hour. It is a wonderful feat for an arboreal mammal and the fastest of all animals moving through canopies. It can walk on branches, climb easily and walk overland vertically on hind legs when balancing the body

with the near upright hands. Among all the Apes, only gibbons including our hoolocks form pair bonds where partners are together until one is dead when the living partner would recruit a new one. Unlike other great apes, gibbons do not know how to build nests on tree tops by collecting branches for sleep or rest. However, they choose high perching positions on heavy branches and tree trunks sheltered by leaves of the can-

#### 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 16 Sharankhola range and had been holed up there. A Rab-8 team led by Maj Adnan

Kabir reached the area, around 45 kilometres south of Sharankhola, around 7:00am. Sensing the presence of the elite

force personnel, the robbers opened fire prompting the Rab men to retali-After around a half-an-hour-long later released on bail.

"gunfight", the robbers retreated and the Rab men found three bulletriddled bodies lying on the ground, he said. Eleven firearms, six sharp weapons,

over 50 bullets, a solar panel with a 12volt battery, a cell phone, tokens for illegally collecting toll from fishermen and some cash were recovered from the spot, Faridul claimed.

The bodies and the seized items were later handed over to Sharankhola

police. Maj Adnan Kabir, who led the drive, said two cases were filed in connection with the incident.

HC order on Salam's bail STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Supreme Court yesterday upheld

SC upholds

a High Court order that had granted bail to Ekushey TV Chairman Abdus Salam in a case filed under the Pornography Control Act last year. A four-member SC bench, headed

by Chief Justice SK Sinha, dismissed an appeal filed by the government against the HC order. The ETV boss, however, cannot get out of jail as he is shown arrested in

other cases, his lawyer Rafique-Ul

Huq and Attorney General

Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star. Salam was arrested in front of ETV's Karwan Bazar office in connection with the case on January 6, hours after cable operators, mostly loyal to the ruling Awami League, allegedly stopped transmission of the

ETV that had broadcast live BNP

leader Tarique Rahman's speech from London on January 5. In the speech telecast several times on the private TV channel, the BNP senior vice-chairman called upon his supporters not to return home until they toppled the present government.

On November 17 last year, a woman (name withheld) filed the case with a Dhaka court against four persons -- her ex-husband Mohammad Shahjalal and his brother-in-law Zakir Hossain, her "god brother" Zahirul Haque Imran and ETV Senior Reporter Elias Hossain.

Shahjalal and Zakir secretly took her photos and footages, and made obscene clips by doctoring those. Salam's name was not on the list

of the accused. He was challenging the HC order.

### Bahrain court sentences 3 to death

A Bahraini court sentenced three Shias to death yesterday and jailed seven others for life after convicting them of killing three policemen in the Sunni-ruled Gulf state last year, prosecutors said.

stripped eight of the defendants of their Bahraini citizenship over the March 3 bombing in a Shiite village, the deadliest attack since security forces crushed Shiite-led protests in March 2011

in Diah village was one officer from the United Arab Emirates.

#### Blogger Avijit ~~00

fanatics," Baki Billah, a blogger, told The Daily Star.

sioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the attack bore the hallmarks of those usually carried out by Jamaat-"It also looks similar to the attacks

on Professor Humayun Azad and blogger Rajib Haider. But whoever they are, we'll trace them," he told this newspaper.

named Ansar Bangla 7 posted a bloodied photo of Avijit and Banna, saying: "May be its Avijit Roy's bloody wife Husband's Head. #Beheaded He was a top Target 4 last 3/4 years. Avijit is well known for his books

"Biswaser Virus" (Virus of Faith) and "Sunyo theke Mahabiswa" (From Vacuum to the Universe).

where three of his books have been published this year. He was to fly back to the US on March 4, said his younger brother Anujit Roy. Last year, Rakamari.com, an online

bookstore, was forced to remove Avijit's books from its list following threats by Shafiur Rahman Farabi, a fundamentalist blogger. Farabi was arrested for posting

provocative comments on his

Facebook page supporting the killing of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar in Mirpur on February 16, 2013. He was Police found involvement of

outfit, in the killing of Rajib. The attack on Avijit resembles the one on noted writer Prof Humayun

Asif Mohiuddin, said Koushik Ahmed, another blogger. According to him, fundamentalists were behind all these attacks.

Prof Humayun Azad was hacked

by assailants on February 27, 2004, when he was coming out of the Ekushey book fair. He later died in Germany while

undergoing treatment.

"The people arriving are desperate.

### Parties unwilling

FROM PAGE 16 is going to be changed within the next few weeks and it may turn into a civil war if such a situation continues.

The EP members expressed concern over the indiscriminate violence and targeted violence. They also said they have common security concerns as Bangladesh is their important partner.

A Bangladesh representative who was there described the Bangladesh government's position over the current situation. The official, whose name could not

be known, said the BNP-Jamaat men in the name of politics are killing innocent people. The official said the people have

rejected hartals and blockade and normalcy in people's life is returning. Earlier, one of the participants in the debate said there are some concerns regarding the freedom of media and expression though media is very

vibrant in Bangladesh. He said this is

an area they need to keep their eyes on in the coming days. The EP members appreciated Bangladesh's efforts in empowering women and mentioned that the Prime Minister, the opposition leader and the BNP chief are women.

They, however, said Bangladesh

needs to withdraw all types of reservation and should implement fully the international convention on empowering women at all levels.

They also talked about Foreign Donation Act and Jamaat funding through NGOs. They mentioned about the arrest

warrant that has been issued against Khaleda Zia, which has not been implemented yet.

They fear that it might lead to dramatic escalation of the tensions and the arrest might be very problematic. Concluding the discussion, the

chair of the session, said they will remain connected with Bangladesh over the next few months. Seeking an immediate end to the

European Parliament delegation during their Dhaka visit echoed the international community and Bangladesh civil society's call for solving the political crisis. The EP delegation said peace and

tal pillar of a pluralistic and vibrant

#### Land office in Feni FROM PAGE 16 Noakhali early yesterday.

BNP-led 20-party alliance. It was also

the fifth day of hartal that ends this morning. Police detained Radhanagar Union

Parishad Chairman Rabiul Haque Chowdhury, also the union BNP's general secretary, in connection with an arson attack. Besides, police yesterday filed a

murder case against a BNP leader and over 50 others in Chittagong and arrested nine others in connection with arson attacks and subversive activities in Dhaka, Chapainawabganj and Noakhali. Detectives detained two central leaders of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal -- Zakirul Islam Zakir and

Mrinal Kanti -- in possession of 20 petrol bombs at Kalyanpur in the city around 8:00pm on Wednesday. DB Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam claimed that most of the arson attacks on Dhaka-Aricha highway were carried out on the directives of Zakir. Pedestrian Milu sustained splinter injuries after two crude bombs

exploded near the Jatiya Press Club

around 3:45pm yesterday. He received

treatment at Dhaka Medical College

Hospital. Police arrested Monirul Islam, president of Nachole Upazila Islami Chhatra Shibir, near Asian School in Chapainawabganj in connection with

torching a truck. Meanwhile, Rab-11 yesterday detained four people with five petrol bombs, 17 homemade bombs, and 200 pieces of Yaba pills at

After preliminary interrogation, they were handed over to Begumganj Model Police Station.

In Munshiganj, police arrested BNP activists -- Babu Bepari, 18, and Suman Mia, 20, -- at Sirajdikhan in connection with vandalising some buses on Dhaka-Mawa highway recently. Apart from the blockade, the BNP-

led alliance has been enforcing hartals since February 1, except for Fridays and Saturdays. The 120-hour hartal since 6:00am

BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the blockade would continue and threatened tougher programmes, including hartal, from next Sunday unless their

Sunday ends at 6:00am today.

demands were met.

The demands include fresh election under a neutral administration and unconditional release of the 20-party alliance leaders and activists. Since January 6 when the blockade

began, violence, carried out especially with petrol and crude bomb attacks, has already claimed 76 lives and left nearly 400 injured. The Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry estimates financial loss of more than Tk 100,000 crore so far with the every day loss of Tk 2,000-2,500 crore.

The Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations had to be

rescheduled repeatedly due to hartals. Our correspondents in Feni, Chittagong, Chapainawabganj,

### ISIS abducts 220

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monitoring group said.

Many of the abductees are said to be women, children or elderly. They were taken as ISIS stormed

several Assyrian villages under the

control of Kurdish and Christian forces. The Observatory said 14 Kurdish fighters and three members of an Assyrian defence organisation had

been killed in three days of fighting for the villages. The United States and United Nations denounced the mass abduction of Christians -- the first of its kind in the war-torn country -- and demanded their release.

"ISIL's latest targeting of a religious minority is only further testament to its brutal and inhumane treatment of all those who disagree with its divisive goals and toxic beliefs," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said, using another acronym for ISIS.

The UN Security Council also condemned the abductions, demanding the hostages be immediately and unconditionally freed. Osama Edward, director of the

Assyrian Human Rights Network, told AFP on Wednesday he believed the abductions were linked to the jihadists' recent loss of ground in the operational reasons". face of US-led air raids. "They took the hostages to use them would not confirm a report that first

as human shields," he said. The jihadists, who are battling which identified the suspect as

Kurdish fighters on the ground, may try to exchange the Assyrians for ISIS prisoners, he said. The kidnappings and assault by ISIS on several Assyrian villages in Hasakeh

prompted thousands of members of the community to flee. Many sought refuge in Qamishli, a

"We've received around 200 fami-

20s, was identified to the Post by

#### Noakhali, Munshiganj contributed to Chaumohani of Begumganj upazila in this report.

left everything behind." Meanwhile, "Jihadi John", the masked Islamic State militant apparently responsible for beheading Western hostages, was named yesterday as Kuwaiti-born London computer programmer

They are coming with nothing, they

and the media. The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation at London's King's College, a leading resource for studying foreign jihadists, said it believed the identity "to be accurate

Mohammed Emwazi by experts

and correct". Cage, a civil rights group that was in contact with Emwazi for two years over his alleged harassment by British security services, said the man bore "striking similarities" to the hooded mili-

Cage's research director Asim Qureshi told a Washington Post reporter that due to the hood "there was no way he could be 100 percent certain," the campaign group said in a statement.

The New York Times quoted a senior British security official saying that Emwazi had been identified by the government "some time ago" but the name had not been disclosed "for But London's Metropolitan Police

Emwazi, who grew up in west London after moving to Britain aged six. "We are not going to confirm the identity of anyone at this stage," Richard Walton, head of the police

Counter Terrorism Command, said in a statement. Contacted by AFP, the interior ministry could not immediately comment

on the reports. Emwazi, believed to be in his mid-

friends and others familiar with the case, with one close acquaintance telling the paper: "I have no doubt that Mohammed is Jihadi John".

"They seized our cell phones first and checked the cell phone number of my husband. Then, two of them stepped forward and told my husband, 'Yes, he is the man whom we are looking for," she said, adding that they later took him with them.

Since then, the family members

They even visited several hospi-

Gazipur but did not find him. Noor's brother Nurul Islam filed a case with Joydevpur Police Station Contacted, Khandaker Rezaul

The plaintiff alleged Imran,

# AFP, Dubai

The supreme criminal court also

Among the three policemen killed

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"His writing drew the ire of religious Shibli Noman, assistant commis-

Shibir men and militants.

Early today, a twitter account

He had come to the country on February 16 to attend the book fair

Ansarullah Bangla Team, a militant

Azad and bloggers Rajib Haidar and

appeared in the Washington Post,

large city in the province that is controlled by Kurdish and regime forces.

lies who are being hosted in local homes," Jean Tolo of Qamishli's Assyrian Organisation for Relief and Development, told AFP.

growing violence in Bangladesh, the

stability should not be restored at the expense of civil and political rights. It also said freedom of expression was a matter of concern as it is a fundamendemocracy.