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Parties unwilling to resolve crisis thru' dialogue

Observe European Parliament members, voice concern over situation in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

A number of European Parliament (EP) members yesterday voiced concern over the escalation of political tension in Bangladesh, saying they do not see any willingness among the major political parties to reach a "compromise" and resolve the crisis through "dialogue".

Describing their discussions with stakeholders in Bangladesh, they said they did not see any scope of any compromise and did not even see any window of compromise, according to a video uploaded on the EP website on the discussions.

The observations were made while discussing the feedback from the EP Subcommittee on Human Rights mission in Brussels that recently visited Bangladesh.

A three-member delegation of the Sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament, led by Cristian Dan Preda, visited Bangladesh from February 16-20.

The EP members said everybody in Bangladesh's political arena was on a very rigid stance.

They also said some of the stakeholders expressed views to the EP delegation during their stay in Dhaka that nothing

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Hoolock -- our acrobats atop forest canopies

DR REZA KHAN

We have a unique animal in Dhaka Zoo. If you are passing by it anytime during the day or residing within two kilometres of it, you are not going to miss out on the unusual ear-deafening duetting sound coming from the zoo. These very high pitched *hoo-uk-hoo-hoo-ho, hook kooo* reverberates across the zoo lake, tall canopy of the botanical gardens and through the neighbourhood.

If you want to hear the
SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

3 'robbers' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Three alleged robbers were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in the Sharankhola range of the Sundarbans under Bagerhat district yesterday.

Two of the dead were Saddam Mollah, 27, son of Shona Mollah from Barguna's Patharghata upazila, and Sohel, 25, son of Mohammad Mostafa Member from the same area. The third victim, aged between 25 and 30, could not be identified immediately.

The three were members of a local rob-

bery gang known as Sagar-Saikat Bahini, said Rab officials.

With them, 41 people have so far been killed in "shootouts" with law enforcers since the BNP-led 20-party alliance enforced an indefinite countrywide blockade on January 6, according to The Daily Star reports.

Lt Col Faridul Alam, commanding officer of Rab-8, said they had information that some members of Sagar-Saikat Bahini had set up a den at Katleswar Khal, locally known as Katlar Khal, under the

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VIOLENCE GOES ON Land office in Feni torched

2 JCD leaders held in Dhaka with 20 petrol bombs

STAR REPORT

Criminals burnt down the Radhanagar Union land office, gutting important land-related documents, at Chhagalnaiya upazila of Feni early yesterday.

Criminals set fire to the corrugated iron-sheet building around 3:30am, burning the whole office, said Chhagalnaiya Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kazi Shahidul Islam.

Yesterday was the 52nd day of the countrywide non-stop blockade enforced by

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It's genocide

PM accuses BNP, Jamaat of killing in the name of hartal, blockade

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance was carrying out "genocide" in the name of hartal and blockade, and said it was not at all acceptable to anyone.

"May Allah give good sense to those who are burning people to death so that they stop such arson attacks... these are sheer killings and acts of genocide, and they are accused of killing people. The BNP-Jamaat nexus has been carrying out genocide," she said.

The PM was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the four-day 4th International Conference on Plastic Surgery or PlastiCon 2015 at a hotel in the capital.

She sharply criticised the ongoing killings of people by BNP-Jamaat

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No trace of Jubo Dal leader for two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of a Jubo Dal leader, whose whereabouts remain unknown for two weeks, has made an emotional plea for her husband's safe return.

Noor Alam, general secretary of the city's Pallabi thana unit of Jubo Dal, was picked up by some plainclothes men two weeks ago, his wife Rina Alam claimed yesterday.

"I want my husband back. Please do not make me widow and my children orphans," a sobbing Rina told a press conference in Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Anxiety and uncertainty have gripped Noor's family after they had heard about the recovery of some bullet-hit bodies and shootout incidents that left several people having political affiliation dead in recent days.

Fearing a miserable fate of Noor, Rina sought the prime minister's intervention in finding out her husband.

At the press conference, Rina was describing how a group of plainclothes men wielding firearms picked up Noor from his brother's

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Cargo vessels ply the river Buriganga in the capital. This type of boat, mostly used in carrying sand, is often seen recklessly operating on the rivers. Sometimes, they hit passenger boats, leading to serious accidents.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



At risk of going under water

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Residents of the remote Alaskan village of a Kivalina say they may be forced to relocate from their homes because of the effects of climate change.

The thinning of sea ice has meant it is not possible for the Iñupiat people of the region to hunt the bowhead whales, while the US government has warned that with less and less sea ice every year to protect the island, it could be washed away by powerful waves.

Some have predicted Kivalina could be under

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PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 27
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-30 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

electromarttd
Electro Mart Limited

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Save the Children Bangladesh that the current political tension has had a major impact on children's education?

Yes (91%)
No (09%)

TOTAL VOTES: 411

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with a report of Amnesty International that violence against women remained a major human rights concern in Bangladesh?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

ISIS abducts 220 Assyrian Christians

Jihadi John unmasked?

AFP, Beirut

Islamic State group jihadists have abducted 220 Assyrian Christians in northeastern Syria in recent days, a monitoring group said yesterday, as international concern grows for the minority group.

The kidnappings -- more than twice as many as previously reported -- have prompted thousands more Christians to flee their homes to avoid being captured by

the Sunni Muslim extremists, activists said. "No fewer than 220 Assyrian citizens were abducted by ISIS over the past three days from 11 villages" in Hasakeh province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"Negotiations are under way through mediators from Arab tribes and a member of the Assyrian community to secure the release of the hostages," the Britain-based

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Announcement for the **STAR** Readers

For the last 20 years in The Daily Star and last 18 years in The Star magazine **Chintito** has been one of the most read columns of the paper. He has regaled, provoked, delighted and sometimes infuriated his readers with his witty, biting commentary on politics and society. **But who is Chintito?**

Find out today when the Star reveals it all. Don't miss reading the **last issue** of the Star in the old format before it changes...

And the **THE MAN BEHIND CHINTITO**