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# Belgium mourns after carnage

Names two brothers as suicide bombers as manhunt intensifies for key suspect

AGENCIES

Belgium yesterday said two brothers with links to the Paris attacks were among the suicide bombers who struck Brussels, as mourners observed a minute's silence for the victims of the carnage.

Hundreds of people gathered in a historic city square applauding and chanting "We love Belgium" in an emotional tribute to the 31 people killed and 270 injured in Tuesday's blasts at Brussels airport and a metro train.

Prosecutors identified Ibrahim El Bakraoui as one of two men who blew themselves up in the Zaventem airport departure hall while his brother Khalid struck at the Maalbeek metro station in the attacks on the symbolic heart of Europe.

Police stepped up a manhunt for a third airport assailant whose bomb failed to go off in the attacks claimed by the Islamic State group which have left European leaders once more grappling for ways to tackle the jihadist threat.

Belgian authorities had already been hunting the Bakraoui brothers, both Belgian nationals with long criminal records, over their links to Salah Abdeslam, the key suspect in the Paris massacre who was arrested in Brussels on Friday after four months on the run.

Federal prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw revealed that airport bomber Ibrahim El Bakraoui had left a desperate "will" on a computer that he dumped in a trash can in which he said "I don't know what to do."

In an apparent reference to Abdeslam, Bakraoui added: "I don't want to end up in a cell next to him."

Analysts say the police hunt seems to have prompted the bombers to rush into an attack in Belgium after months of lying low, according to the testament found on the laptop.

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A girl lights a candle at a makeshift memorial at Place de la Bourse (Beursplein) in Brussels yesterday. World leaders united in condemning the carnage in Brussels and vowed to combat terrorism, after Islamic State bombers killed around 31 people in a strike at the symbolic heart of the EU.

PHOTO: AFP

# 12 to die for double murder in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday sentenced 12 people to death for killing two brothers in the district nine years ago.

Noakhali Additional District and Sessions' Judge ANM Morshed Khan also acquitted 10 other accused of the murders.

The convicts are: Mofazzel Hossain, Abdus Sabur, Zafar Hossain, Ali Akbar Sajon, Sahab Uddin, Nasir Uddin, and Tofazzel Hossain of Noakhali, and Kamrul Hasan, Kamal Hossain, Mohammad Rashed, Shamsuddin, and Abu Yusuf of Laxmipur.

Only Yusuf and Tofazzel were present at the court yesterday. The others are fugitives.

According to the case statement, the accused attacked Firoz Kabir Miron, Shamsul Kabir Rubel and Sumon Paul and later forced them into a microbus in front of a private hospital on Choumuhoni-Majjdee road on February 1, 2007.

They were returning to their home closing a mobile

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# Conduct thorough probe

US Congress member presses New York Fed for answers on \$101m BB heist

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

US Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney has raised some serious questions about the New York Federal Reserve Bank's actions regarding the \$101-million heist from the Bangladesh Bank account.

In a letter to New York Fed President William Dudley on Tuesday, Maloney said the brazen heist from the BB account threatens to undermine the confidence that foreign central banks have in the Federal Reserve, and in the safety and soundness of international monetary transactions.

"We need a thorough investigation to determine how these criminals were



Carolyn B Maloney

able to manipulate the system so that banks and financial institutions can institute standards that will prevent hackers and cyber criminals from siphoning money out of accounts like those held at the New York Fed again," said the Congresswoman.

Maloney is a ranking member of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on capital markets and government-sponsored enterprises as well as a senior member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

On February 4, cyber criminals sent 35 orders via the SWIFT financial messaging system to transfer roughly \$951 million from the BB account with the New York Fed to a number of private accounts in other countries.

The New York Fed executed five of the orders, transferring a total of \$101 million to four private accounts in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# BNP won't quit

Decision comes despite AL's landslide victory amid violence, irregularities in first phase UP polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will stay in the union parishad elections so that it can expose "the real face of the Awami League and the Election Commission".

Even though frustrated over the irregularities and violence during Tuesday's union parishad polls, the party would not boycott the polls to unmask before the nation as well as the world the ruling party's "evil plan to win the race" and the EC's cooperation in it, said a party leader, wishing anonymity.

Main opposition Jatiya Party and some left parties, including partners of the AL-led 14-party alliance, also expressed frustration

over the violence and the killing of 10 people in the first phase of the local government elections.

AL leaders, however, said they were satisfied with the polls and the results, but would ask the party grassroots to control themselves to curb such violence in the next phases.

Both the BNP and the Jatiya Party instructed their party men to be more active in the next phases, party sources said.

"We are really frustrated with the way the union parishad polls were held amid widespread irregularities and violence," said BNP leader Emran Saleh Prince, engaged in the UIP election process of the



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JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A minor boy handing out slips with voter numbers to people while another searches for voters' names on a list at Shaheed Shamsul Haque Girls School polling centre in Nagapur upazila of Tangail. Polls to 11 UPs in the upazila was held yesterday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

# Shela ban is permanent

Says shipping minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government has imposed a permanent ban on the plying of all types of vessels through the Shela river in the Sundarbans, amid concern over frequent incidents of vessel capsizing in the river.

The sinking a cargo vessel with around 1,235 tonnes of coal on board prompted the government to take the decision, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said yesterday.

He was talking to reporters at the secretariat after the 31st meeting with the task force on maintaining navigability of some important rivers, including the Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu.

Shajahan said the decision was taken for the sake

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# Holiday on the moon!

MAIL ONLINE

You might want to start planning ahead for your future vacation - in 20 years, you could be taking a holiday on the moon.

Head of the European Space Agency (ESA), Johann-Dietrich Woerner has revealed ideas for an international 'Moon Village' that combines the capabilities of space-faring nations around the world.

This settlement - which could be available by 2030 - would be built using natural resources from the lunar surface to create a permanent base for the

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যে কোন একটি ভিডিও দেখে দিন

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# No headway

'IS claims responsibility' for killing Christian convert

STAR REPORT

Investigators are yet to make any headway in the gruesome killing of Christian convert Hossain Ali in Kurigram although two days have passed.

Police said they picked up five people in the last two days

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