Violation

kidnapped.

FROM PAGE 20 There were 32 incidents of rape in 2016 and at least 875 minority people were injured in different incidents of violence while 28 people were

There are 2,238 incidents of attack on the establishments owned by minority community people. In 1,158 incidents, homes and assets of the minority people were grabbed. At least 168 minority families tried to leave the country, according to the

Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of the parishad, said the killings traumatised the minority people and unfortunately there was no effective measure from the administration to stop killings.

Rana placed several demands including enacting the "Minority Protect Act" to stop all kinds of oppression on the minority people.

Mentioning the attacks on the Hindus in Nasirnagar, he said the local administration was inactive during the incident. He alleged that at least 15 temples and 150 homes were vandalised and looted during the attacks.

The Santal people of Gaibandha became victims of an attack and there are allegations that the administration evicted the Santal in a brutal

Leaders of the parishad Nim Chandra Bhowmik, Subrat Chowdhury, Kajol Devanath and others were present at the press confer-

Rab detains

FROM PAGE 2

Rab official said

Ashraful is an accused in a police murder case in Sundarganj, filed in 2014, he said.

Family members of the detainees, however, told our Gaibandha correspondent yesterday that some men in plainclothes picked up Ashraful, a BBA student of Daffodil

International University, his elder brother Sabbir Ahmed, an employee of a private firm in the capital, and their cousin Jahirul from their Uttar Badda residence on January 4.

"We came to know about it from the house owner, Khoaz Sikder the next day. We could not get any clue about their whereabouts," said

Marjan Akter Rumy, wife of Sabbir. Marjan, who went to his fatherin-law's house at Sunderganj upazila on December 27 last year, came

back to Dhaka on Wednesday and filed a general diary with Badda Police Station. Yesterday she came to know that

two of them are held by Rab. Since his husband is still missing, she is worried, Marjan said, adding that they had no involvement in the MP murder. Earlier, Sundarganj police arrested

eight people -- seven Jamaat men and a former upazila vice-chairman on suspicion of their involvement in the murder. They are in police custody now.

Police also detained 27 people and showed 21 of them arrested under section-54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Armed assailants shot Liton inside his Masterpara home on December 31. He died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital that eve-

Meanwhile, several thousand people in Sundarganj formed a human chain yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of Liton's killers.

China's hidden

FROM PAGE 20

In addition to the statue, villagers also found an imperial decree carved into the stone, Xinhua reported.

After the local made the discovery, archaeologists have arrived at the Nancheng County to start an underwater detection project.

Xu Changqing, head of the provincial research institute of archaeology, believed that the statue had been carved during China's Ming Dynasty

(1368-1644). Archaeologists also found rectangular holes carved on the cliff. They believed that the holes could provided proof that

a temple had existed in the area. The Hongmen Reservoir contains 1.2 billion cubic meters of water and has more than 1,000 islands.

According to Nancheng County's governmental website, it was located on the site of an ancient town known

as Xiaoshi. When the reservoir was built in 1958, 63 towns and villages, including

Xiaoshi were completely submerged to create the lake. Dating back to 202 BC, Xiaoshi occupied a strategic location between

Fujian and Jiangxi, two provinces in south-east China, and was an important trading town.

The town had held the governmental seat of Nancheng County for nearly 500 years.

The underwater detection project in Hongmen Reservoir is expected to last until January 15.

Dead put in the dock!

FROM PAGE 20 crimes trial in March 2010, according to the ICT's investigation agency.

The role of law enforcers was questioned in another incident when Gazi Abdul Mannan, a fugitive war criminal from Kishoreganj, was buried by his family on December 19, the day he died of "old-age complications" in Rupganj of Narayanganj.

He had been living in a house that

belonged to one of his relatives, just a

few kilometres from Dhaka, and had maintained regular communications with the family, but police could not arrest him. The prosecution had pressed five charges against Wazuddin and another accused Riaz Uddin of Mymensingh

on March 23 last year and the tribunal took the charges into cognisance on March 29. As the police submitted a report citing that Wazuddin was absconding, the tribunal on May 16 ordered the authorities to publish advertisements

in two national dailies, asking him to appear before it. Accordingly, advertisements were published on May 17 and 18.

The tribunal then framed charges against them on December 11 and fixed January 31 this year to record testimonies of prosecution witnesses.

Wazuddin's death on May 7 last year did not come to the notice of the prosecution or investigation agency, reported Private channel Somoy TV on Wednesday, though his family had informed local police of his death.

The investigation officer told the TV channel they had nothing to do if local police did not inform the court. Meanwhile, the superintendent of

police in Mymensingh yesterday sent a report to the tribunal registrar's office on the death of Wazuddin, registrar Shahidul Alam Jhinuk told The Daily It was the duty of the police to

inform the tribunal timely about the death of the accused, but they did not do that, he added. HOW IT UNFOLDED

Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrowardi took seat around 10:30am and proceeded to hear the war crimes charges pressed against four Moulvibazar men. When Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali

started to place his submission, Justice Shahinur wanted to know about the total number of accused in the case.

As Haider Ali said that of the four accused, one is in jail and the rest are on the run, the judge said, "Are you

sure they [three] are absconding, or are they dead?"

"One electronic media report has come to our attention. It says investigation report has been submitted against a dead man and subsequently prosecution submitted formal charges against him [at the tribunal]," said Justice Shahinur, apparently in reference to Wazuddin case.

The judge wanted to know who the conducting prosecutor of the case was.

As Prosecutor Hrishikesh Saha stood up and tried to say something, Justice Shahinur said, "Now we are in doubt about all the fugitives in all the cases ... if they were indeed absconding or not You have maligned the image of the tribunal."

agency showed extreme negligence," said the judge.

inform the court if an accused dies during the course of investigation? The prosecution have to do this." Then Chief Prosecutor Ghulam

going to their [accused] home, and that investigation officers were designated for this job.

say this."

"Won't you be alert even after this

incident?" Justice Shahinur asked. The chief prosecutor and Haider Ali

Then Justice Shahinur raised question over the execution report police submits following an arrest warrant issued by tribunal.

The investigation officer should step down if he/she fails to give proper information, he added.

tion...Don't take the matter casually; rather take it seriously," Justice Shahinur said. He also mentioned the death of fugitive war criminal Abdul Mannan

and Justice Shohrowardi mentioned cases we are ... Take it seriously because it's

related to the dignity of the institution," said Justice Shahinur.

in Moulvibazar case until January 30.

HC rejects stay plea

FROM PAGE 1

to ensure that the witnesses of the cases take oath before testifying at the trial courts under the relevant rules.

The HC bench of Justice M

Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan passed the order after hearing the petition.

Barrister Bodruddoza Badal, a lawyer for Khaleda, told The Daily Star that his client would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC's rejection order.

The BNP chief filed the petition with the HC on December 6 last year saying that 32 prosecution witnesses of the Zia Charitable case did not take oath as per the law before their statements were recorded by the trial court.

She also prayed in the petition to order the lower court to cancel the statements given by the witnesses.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearings on Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage corruption cases against Khaleda until January 26.

The BNP chief appeared before the makeshift court at Bakshibazar around 10:45am and the court allowed her to sit on a chair inside the courtroom. She left the courtroom around 1:05pm after the proceedings

Special Judge Court-3 fixed the date for hearing on the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case after Khaleda filed a time petition before it seeking adjournment.

primary enquiry into the case and also a prosecution witness, gave his statement before the court in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case in the presence of Khaleda.

On January 5, the same court

After the hearing, the court asked Khaleda to appear before it on January 26 and place her self-defence

with Tejgaon Police Station accusing four people, including Khaleda, of raising funds for the trust from

filed by the ACC on July 3, 2008, with Ramna Police Station for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

HRW slams govt over

FROM PAGE 20

were over.

sentiments," the government finally launched a drive in May last year to find the perpetrators of the killings of bloggers, secularists, academics, and LGBT activists. However, instead of identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators of the killings, the authorities rounded up nearly 15,000 people over eight days in June, it said.

café attack, dozens of members or supporters of alleged extremist groups were killed by state forces in so-called armed encounters, it added.

Shortly after the July 1 Gulshan

a long history of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Justice for these abusive practices is non-existent," Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW, was quoted as saying in the report.

Bangladeshi government act to pro-

tect its citizens from what has obviously been a growing security problem in the country, but it needs to do so in a rights-respecting manner," he The government's crackdown on

civil society, the media, and political opposition intensified in 2016, the report said. The editors of two leading news-

papers were charged with multiple crimes, including sedition and criminal defamation. In October, the government passed the draconian Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Act, gaining comprehensive and arbitrary control over all activ-"Bangladeshi security forces have ities of nongovernmental organisations.

"The government's campaign to shut down dissent, whether through protests, the media, or nongovernmental organisations, has had a devastating impact across "It is important that the civil society and the political opposition," said Adams.

FROM PAGE 1

dream start on a wicket where their highest scores in four previous innings was a mere 141. It could have been ever sweeter had Mahmudullah Riyad not gotten out playing a rash shot. But apart from his dismissal for 26 and opener Imrul Kayes's departure in the fourth over for one, it was the best day on the field for the Tigers on tour so far. They not only outsmarted the

home team but withstood the naughty Wellington wind like men possessed. The strong wind was so forceful that it tried to blow away the likes of Tamim Iqbal and the slighter-built Mominul Haque out of the park when Black Caps captain Kane Williamson won the toss and decided to field without giving it a second thought. But it was a day in which the two left-handers showed character in

adversity. Tamim started it all with a stroke-filled 56 off 50 balls while Mominul followed suit with an equally impressive unbeaten 64. It was more positive intent than power-hitting from Tamim. He was

so methodical with his shot selection that he dispatched almost every bad ball he faced to the boundary. The left-hander was harsh against anything wide of the off-stump from

Trent Boult, who went for 26 runs off three overs in his first spell before being replaced by Colin de Grandhomme. Tamim hit five boundaries against the experienced left-arm pace bowler, including an exquisite square drive followed by an imperious on-drive all along the carpet. The only discomforting moment for Tamim was when he played across the line against Grandhomme. It struck him on the pad but he survived the review taken by Williamson. He could not survive a second review when Boult, in his second spell after the first rain break, had him trapped leg-before. When Tamim departed leaving the

score at 60 for two, Mominul's score was only two. But Tamim's innings gave the rest of the batting line-up the much-needed confidence that this is a wicket where you can not only survive but can also score runs. Mominul's unbeaten 64 was a demonstration of a quality Test knock. His 85-run partnership with

Mahmudullah for the third wicket can be treated as a big step forward in shaping the Tigers mentally into a more competitive team in trying conditions. The reason is that Mominul had to come out twice to resume his innings after two rain breaks. He was so cool that it appeared he

was batting in his own backyard, where he scored an imperious 181 and followed it up with 121 against the same opposition two years ago. The pint-sized batsman started slowly but grew in confidence with every passing over. Mominul moved within two runs

of a composed fifty after he hit Tim Southee for two fours and a six in the 29th over, before rain forced the second break. His first boundary was through the covers. The pocket-sized dynamo then hooked a rising delivery down the leg side for a six and with it completed a 50-run partnership for the second wicket with Mahmudullah. The left-hander celebrated it with a sublime boundary through point. And it was at that moment the wind returned with more force along with that spraying rain. The bails were dislodged and the hat of the on-field umpire blown

away, forcing them to run for cover. They returned to bat after three hours in gloomier conditions. But Mominul hardly lost his composure, reaching his 50 with a dab past slip and gully for three. Mahmudullah was also playing well but paid the penalty for chasing a delivery wide

A mini collapse after all the hard work suddenly became a possibility when Shakib Al Hasan, on four, pulled straight to Mitchell Santner at square leg. But fortunately for Bangladesh he dropped the scorcher and after a couple of overs both Mominul and Shakib happily walked off, complaining about the bad light.

NHRC helpless FROM PAGE 2

2010 as per the provisions of the law.

He said the law needs to be revisited now, and power of the commission has to be increased. The finance minister asked them if

they had sent any proposal to the government in this regard. The NHRC chief said they would

make a recommendation to the government for amending the law. He also said in the country of 16 crore people, the commission has

only 48 employees.

The chairman said with such insufficient manpower, monitoring of a huge number of human rights violation incidents in the country was not possible.

He added that the NHRC had recently sent a proposal to the law ministry for increasing its manpower. The proposal would now be sent to the finance ministry via the public administration ministry.

The chairman said they also submitted a proposal before the finance minister for construction of a building for the commission, and the minister said he would consider it.

Assured Tamim | AL mulls same formula

FROM PAGE 1

in 2019, the prime minister might go ahead with the idea again and invite the BNP to join the polls-time cabinet, AL insiders say.

"The issue of formation of a pollstime all-party government has been discussed in the party forum a few days ago. The prime minister may take an initiative in this regard," an AL central working committee member, who was present at the discussion, told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Some BNP leaders said they are no longer rigid on their demand for a non-partisan election-time government. The type of election-time administration can be determined through discussions, they added.

"If the government considers forming an all-party government, we will certainly welcome it. But the government has to come forward with the idea and hold talks with the major political parties, including the BNP. Our party is in favour of talks on any national issue," said Mahbubur Rahman, a member of the party's national standing committee. Abdullah Al-Noman, a vice chair-

man of BNP, said situations have changed and this is not 2013.

"If the government has good inten-

League is speaking positively on participatory polls and the BNP is also speaking the same. Now talks are required to reach a consensus," said Noman. Pro-BNP intellectual and Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder

tion and sincerity, talks can be held to

resolve all the problems. The Awami

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Zafrullah Chowdhury thinks the BNP may welcome the idea of an all-party government, as proposed by Hasina in 2013, with some modifications through talks. Moudud Ahmed, a member of the BNP's national standing committee,

however, said everything depends on the political negotiations and time will tell what is good.

Contacted, AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah said the government wants a free, fair and participatory election.

"Our leader Sheikh Hasina already expressed her willingness to hold a participatory election," he added. About the polls-time government,

he said they first want a credible Election Commission and then they would place some proposals to the EC for holding of a free and fair election. Talking to The Daily Star, some AL

leaders said the size of the interim government would be discussed later on. But they did not say when.

Dolphins evolving

FROM PAGE 20 Conservation mingled with passion, curiosity and a drive for a better understanding of these gentle giants occupying our sea drove marine scientists to collect samples from both Indo-Pacific bottlenose and humpback dolphins in the waters off the coast of Bangladesh. Genetic research conducted by

marine scientists on the Indo-Pacific bottlenose and humpback dolphins has found animals that are distinct from their neighbouring populations, according to a new study by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c), Universidade de Lisboa. To understand what this means, we

It is the change in the characteristics of a species over several generations, and relies on the process of natural selection, driven by various geographical factors, for example, availability of water, food, types of nutrients, temperature etc. Some of these characteristics may give the individual an advantage over

need to go back to the basics of evolution.

other individuals which they can then pass on to their offspring. The recent discovery by marine scientists that two species of dolphin in the waters off Bangladesh are genetically distinct from those in other regions of the Indian and western

Pacific Oceans supports a growing

body of evidence that the Bay of Bengal

harbours conditions that drive the evolution of new life forms. connection between the presence of Lisboa, Portugal and AMNH's Sackler these distinct populations of dolphins and the unique oceanic habitat that is found in the Bay of Bengal," Amaral, the

lead author of the study, said in an arti-

cle published in the WCS Newsroom. "The combination of a biologically

driving speciation, or the emergence of new species," the author was quoted as saying in the article. The Bay of Bengal, which is located in the northern Indian Ocean, has a unique habitat with a combination of multiple factors: it receives huge

amounts of freshwater and organic

matter, including sediments and min-

rich yet isolated seascape could be

erals, from the Meghna, Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers, and leaf litter and other bio-productivity from the world's largest mangrove forest, a unique ecosystem in its own right. Along with that in deeper waters, a submarine canyon called the "Swatch of No-Ground" (SoNG) recycles nutrients through upwelling. All of this together creates a biologically productive coastal region explaining the genetic distinc-

tiveness found in both bottlenose and humpback dolphin populations. The researchers collected skin samples from 32 coastal Indo-Pacific and

Genetic sequences were then extracted from the samples for comparison with previously published sequences for both species. The researchers found both dolphins to be genetically isolated from nearby populations.

The study titled "Oceanic drivers of population differentiation in Indo-Pacific bottlenose (Tursiops aduncus) and humpback (Sousa spp.) dolphins of the northern Bay of Bengal" was recently published in Conservation Genetics.

timeframe of the present government.

"We believe in democracy and we've full

country is moving ahead then a vested

group is trying to create anarchy

through unleashing terrorist acts in the

citizens, teachers of all educational

institutions, including madrasas, Ansar-

VDP members and guardians to remain

stepping into the 9th consecutive year,

the development and betterment of the

She also said some 2.80 lakh families

As the Awami League government is

vigilant about militant activities.

Hasina called upon Imams, senior

The prime minister said when the

confidence in our people."

name of Islam.

'All parties will trust

initiative to reconstitute the Election Commission. We hope all the political parties will have their confidence in it. We also hope they [political parties] will take part in the next election as per

optimism in her address to the nation in the evening marking the third anniversary of her government's tenure after The PM's 35-minute address to the

"We've liberated the country through the War of Independence. The Father of the Nation had taught us not to bow down our heads, and we'll take Bangladesh to a dignified position in the global arena overcoming all the obstacles and odds," she added.

"lower middle-income" country under the Awami League government. firmly believe it's only Awami League which could turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and a prosperous and developed one by 2041 and thus build Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the Father of the Nation." She also called upon all, irrespective

of class and creed, to devote themselves together to nation building and the country's development and thus reward a developed, prosperous, beautiful and liveable Bangladesh for the future generation.

humpback dolphins for the study.

[The authors of the study are Dr Ana

"Our findings indicate that there is a R Amaral of cE3c, Universidade de Institute of Comparative Genomics; Brian D Smith and Rubaiyat M Mansur of WCS; and Dr Howard C Rosenbaum of WCS and affiliated with AMNH.]

the constitution," she said. The prime minister expressed the

winning the January 5 polls in 2014. nation was simultaneously aired by staterun BTV, Bangladesh Betar and other

private TV channels and radio stations. Mentioning that her party Awami League believes in accomplishing tasks not in words, Hasina said the party has brought all the country's notable successes and achievements since the Liberation War led by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The prime minister noted that Bangladesh attained the status of a

Hasina said her government has completed three years of its current

address to the nation.

mise for bringing back democracy and

[holding] fair elections," he said, addtenure, and the next general election will ing that it was "missing" which was be held on completion of the specific disappointing.

Hasina said it is up to the people to assess how much her government has been able to fulfil their expectations. "But, we can firmly say we didn't leave any stone unturned in our efforts for

country and its people."

will be rehabilitated through Ashrayan Project and other projects, including housing programmes by 2019 and a law has already been enacted to set up two new medical universities in Chittagong

BNP'S RESPONSE Many of the details of developments

and Rajshahi.

address were "wrong, false and baseless", BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a press briefing last night, reports our staff correspondent. "The legitimacy of the government and its lack of morals are the main

Hasina came up with during her

problem of the country. But she has avoided that ...," he said. The BNP organised the briefing at its Gulshan office to respond to the PM's

"Everyone expected that she [the PM] would hint at a political compro-

"You prosecution and investigation

Justice Shohrowardi said, "Who will

Arieff Tipoo said it was not possible for the prosecution to collect information,

At that, Justice Shohrowardi said, "As the chief prosecutor, you just can't

Justice Shahinur said, "We are extremely frustrated."

said, "Sure, we will try to meet the expectation of the court."

"Go to the media ... you are maligning [the image] of the institu-

some inconsistencies in two other "You may be hurt by our words. But you have to understand how frustrated

The tribunal adjourned the hearing

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of the

Nur Ahmed, an Anti-Corruption Commission official who conducted

allowed a petition submitted by Khaleda for recording statement of Nur Ahmed.

statement in connection with the On August 8, 2011, the ACC filed the Zia Charitable Trust graft case

outside the off-stump. unknown sources abusing power. The Zia Orphanage graft case was