Gunman in

hostage

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil holds 16

bus passengers

A gunman is holding as many as 16 bus passengers hostage in Rio de

At least six people have been freed

from the vehicle that is stopped

on a bridge connecting Rio with

Heavily armed police have surrounded the bus as they negotiate

with the gunman, who G1 news

reported is armed with a gun and

the bus at 5:30 am (0830 GMT) and

began threatening passengers.

The gunman reportedly boarded

Traffic on the Rio-Niteroi bridge

spanning Guanabara Bay has been

paralysed during the ongoing hostage

Hundreds escape

after violent riots

Indonesian authorities were hunting

for more than 250 inmates who

escaped a Papua prison set ablaze

during violent riots, officials said

yesterday, as fresh protests broke out

easternmost territory -- where an

insurgency against Jakarta's rule has

simmered for decades -- saw rioting

and protests triggered by the detention

About half of a 500-inmate prison

n Sorong city fled their cells when

the prison was set ablaze by angry

protesters Monday, according to

"258 inmates escaped and only

Several prison employees were

injured by rock-throwing prisoners

as they tried to stop the escape, she

Sorong, a city of some 220,000

people, was hit by mass protests on

Monday while in Manokwari, the

capital of West Papua province, chaos

broke out with the local parliament

building torched and nearly reduced

the region, some 500 people rallied

again in Sorong on Tuesday as police

in riot gear fired tear gas and water

This week's demonstrations were

triggered by reports that authorities

tear-gassed and detained some 43 Papuan university students in the Southeast Asian nation's second-

piggest city Surabaya on Saturday

Local media and Papuan activists

said police in riot gear stormed into a

dormitory to force out students who

allegedly destroyed an Indonesian

flag. Police said the students were

A different group of protesters

Indonesia's president Joko Widodo

called for calm and the government

pledged to investigate the Surabaya

flashpoint in a decades-old rebel

insurgency against Indonesian rule

and allegations that its security forces

committed widespread rights abuses

against Papua's ethnic Melanesian

its independence in the early

Sixties, but neighbouring Indonesia

took control of the resource-rich

region following a UN-sponsored

referendum that was widely viewed as

Papua, which shares a border with

independent Papua New Guinea, sees

The former Dutch colony declared

Monday's riots marked the latest

demonstrated against the students

and shouting racial slurs about

Indonesia's independence day.

briefly questioned and set free.

Papuans.

incident.

population.

cannons to disperse the crowds.

While calm has mostly returned to

five of them had returned by this

morning," said local justice ministry

spokeswoman Marlien Lande.

of dozens of Papuan students.

The prison break happened Monday as several cities in Indonesia's

Papua prison

in the restive region.

authorities.

added.

Janeiro on Tuesday, officials said.

neighboring city Niteroi.

#### Why should

FROM PAGE 16 In the petition, Minni said she was innocent and not involved in the murder in any way. She added that she had been made accused with an ulterior motive and on the

instructions of a vested quarter. Earlier, two courts in Barguna rejected her bail prayers on July 22

Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded her statement.

Minni's husband Rifat Sharif, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of her college in Barguna town on June 26.

In footage of the incident that went viral on social media, Minni was seen screaming and trying to save her husband from the attackers.

Rifat's father filed the murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people on the day of the incident. The prime accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2.

#### 3 abducted

FROM PAGE 16 Tk 30 lakh, he added.

On Sunday, a Bangladesh Army soldier was shot dead when criminals opened fire on an army patrol team in Rangamati.

Six people were killed and another was kidnapped in Bandarban in the last three months.

#### Sailor's message

sailing. 20 June 1969."

Tyler Ivanoff, a teacher's aide in Shishmaref, Alaska, spotted the bottle on the shore near his village, and pried off the plastic stopper with his

"It was still dry on the inside and still smelled like wine or whatever, old alcohol. The note was dry," he told the Nome Nugget newspaper.

Ivanoff posted a picture of the bottle and the note on Facebook on

But the yarn doesn't end there. Rossiya 1, a Russian television network, tracked it by its return address in Vladivostok to a retired Soviet ship captain now living in

Anatoly Botsanenko, interviewed by the station in a naval uniform, said he served on the Sulak in 1969 when he was 35.

Peering at the message on the reporter's smartphone, Botsanenko said, "That's not my handwriting." But he then recognized the return address as his old home in Vladivostok.

"It's pretty cool how a small photo grew into a story," Ivanoff posted on

#### 33 inaictea

FROM PAGE 16

Rab claimed the centre was used for teaching extremism to the newly recruited members of the outfit.

However, the elite force members could not arrest head of the training centre Mohammad Fattah, who had escaped before the raid.

However, the elite force is yet to trace out Maniruzzaman and another donor of the militant outfit Allama Libidi, a Dubai expatriate.

Rab said Chittagong-based Hamza Brigade was formed in November, 2013 by some former members of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, Qawmi madrasa-based radical platform Hefazat-e-Islam and other militant

Their aim was to topple the incumbent government through an armed revolution and establishing an Islamic state incorporating Chittagong, CHT, Cox's Bazar and parts of the bordering areas of Myanmar and India.

#### Dozen Burkina troops killed in 'major terrorist attack'

AFP, Ouagadougou

More than a dozen soldiers died on Monday during a "major attack" by "terrorist armed groups" in northern

Burkina Faso, the army said. With other soldiers still missing, the death toll could hit 20 dead, several security sources said.

"In the early morning, the military detachment of the Koutougou department in Soum province was the target of an attack," said a statement from the general staff.

"A provisional report states that more than a dozen soldiers were killed, and several were wounded.'

The poor Sahel state of Burkina Faso has been battling a rising wave of jihadist violence over the last four years which began in the north but has since spread to the east, near the border with Togo and Benin.

The heaviest Islamist attack against Burkina's army to date left 12 soldiers dead at Nassoumbou, also in Soum province, in December 2016.



A demonstrator, dressed as a clown and wearing a mask of Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, protests outside the gates to Downing Street on Whitehall in London, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## 'Not proud as Indian'

proud of the fact that India, after having done so much to achieve a democratic norm in the world -where India was the first non-Western country to go for democracy -- that we lose that reputation on the grounds of action that have been taken".

The government's move earlier this month to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcate the state into two union territories have received political and popular

The bifurcation bill received support from several key opposition parties and individual leaders. Even a section of Congress leaders applauded the end to the special status, which has now put Jammu and Kashmir on par with the rest of the country -- doing sway with its own constitution, flag, penal code and the power to decide who buys land in the state.

Amid anticipation about the possibility buying land in Jammu and Kashmir by people from other states, Dr Sen said it should have been "something for the people of the state (Jammu and Kashmir) to decide".

"This is something in which Kashmiris have a legitimate point of

view because it is their land," he said. He was also critical of the government's decision to keep the mainstream political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir under arrest.

"I don't think you will ever have fairness and justice without hearing the voices of the leaders of the people and if you keep thousands of leaders under restraint and many of them in jail, including big leaders who have led the country and formed governments in the past ... you are stifling the channel of democracy that makes democracy a success," he said.

The government has described its decision to place Jammu and Kashmir under a massive security blanket as "preventive measures" to prevent backlash that might cost lives.

That's the classic colonial excuse. That's how the British ran the country for 200 years," Dr Sen said. "The last thing that I expected when we got our independence... is that we would go back to our colonial heritage of preventive detentions,"

## Pakistan to move

and detentions of hundreds of political leaders and separatists who have long campaigned for secession from India.

Youth have pelted stones at paramilitary police deployed in Srinagar, and the latest detentions took place in parts of the city where such incidents have occurred, a police

These arrests have been made in the areas where there has been intensifying stone pelting in the last few days," the officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

A local government official confirmed the latest detentions.

The withdrawal of the special privileges of Muslim majority Kashmir means residents of all parts of India can buy property and compete for government jobs and college places, raising fears that it will be flooded with outsiders.

US President Donald Trump spoke to Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday urging them to reduce tensions over Twitter post after the calls. Authorities in Indian Kashmir

on Monday said the protests were local and small in nature involving no more than a dozen people. Still, primary schools remained deserted yesterday as they were the previous day as parents worried about the safety of their children kept them at

Reuters visited three schools in including Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School and no students had turned up and classes were deserted

"Some teachers reported to duty but left as there were no students" said an official of the school.

A driver, however, said it was

Kashmir. "A tough situation, but good conversations!" Trump said in a

Authorities had ordered schools to reopen on Monday after a twoweek closure as a sign of normalcy. Srinagar's top city official Shahid Choudhary asked schools to ensure resumption of bus services.

difficult to operate buses in such a volatile situation. "It is very risky for us and the students," he said.

# Cameroon anglophone separatist leader gets life sentence

A military court in Cameroon yesterday handed a life sentence to the head of the country's anglophone separatist movement, Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, and nine of his followers, lawvers said.

The 10 were convicted of charges including "terrorism and secession", the state's lawyer, Martin Luther Achet,

The sentence was confirmed by a lawyer for the separatists, Joseph Fru, who condemned what he called a "parody of justice".

The defendants refused to recognise the right of the military tribunal in Yaounde to try them.

Their lawyers have yet to say whether they will file an appeal.

Ayuk Tabe, a charismatic 54-yearold computer engineer by training, was the first self-proclaimed president of "Ambazonia" -- a breakaway

state declared in October 2017 two English-speaking regions of the central African country.

The government responded with a military crackdown.

Attacks by both sides have left 1,850 dead, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, while the UN says 530,000 people have fled

English-speakers account for about fifth of Cameroon's population of 24 million, who are majority Frenchspeaking.

Anglophones mainly are concentrated in two western areas, the Northwest Region and the Southwest Region, that were incorporated into the French-speaking state after the colonial era in Africa wound down six decades ago.

Anglophones have chafed for vears at perceived discrimination in education, law and economic opportunities at the hands of the

francophone majority

Ayuk Tabe is part of the political branch of the separatist group that supports dialogue with President Paul

But the influence of moderates waned in 2017 as Biya, who has been in power for 36 years, rejected demands for autonomy and radicals in the movement gained the ascendant. - 'Brazen crimes' -

In January 2018, Ayuk Tabe was arrested with 46 other separatists in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

They were then handed over to Cameroon -- a move that was ruled illegal by a Nigerian court in March this year.

In late May, Ayuk Tabe said he was willing to take part in talks with the government, provided this took place abroad and the government released all people who had been detained since the start of the anglophone

crisis.

Last month, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the security forces of committing "brazen crimes" against citizens, including unlawful killings and use of excessive force.

The authorities, while rejecting general criticism, have acknowledged a small number of abuses. In June, the defence ministry said

it would prosecute seven soldiers suspected of summarily killing two women and their two children, a video of which was distributed on the internet to widespread outrage.

The unrest has crippled the economy of the Northwest and Southwest Regions and had a knockon effect across the country.

More than one in six people in Cameroon -- 4.3 million -- need humanitarian aid, an increase of 30 percent from 2018, according to UN aid officials.

### Afghan ambassador to Spain hurt in Barcelona mugging

Afghanistan's ambassador to Spain was mugged at the weekend in Barcelona, police and diplomatic sources said Monday, the latest in a string of high-profile crimes in the

The assailants attacked Humayoon Rasaw late Sunday on a street in the centre of town, throwing him to the ground to steal his watch, a police spokeswoman said. The ambassador, who was in

Barcelona for celebrations marking war-torn Afghanistan's national day, suffered a leg injury but "is fine," according to a source at the Afghan embassy in Madrid. The robbery comes as Barcelona,

one of Europe's most visited cities, has seen a sharp rise in crimes, including several involving foreigners which have made global headlines.

The Mediterranean city has seen eight murders since July, an unusually high number in Spain which has one of the lowest crime rates in Europe.

Robberies, especially those targeting foreign visitors, have also

#### frequent clashes between the military and rebels. 5 arrested

read, adding Mahmudul faked the dance performance to get the victim

Hearing the victim scream, locals

rushed to the spot and rescued her but the alleged rapists managed to flee, the case statement read. Meanwhile, police arrested two

more men in Madaripur Sadar upazila for allegedly raping two madrasa students.

The arrestees are Masud Moral, 30, and Rubel Mollah, 18, of the same upazila.

Sowgatul Alam, officer-in-charge of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, said one of the victim's brother filed a case against the duo. According to the case statement, the

duo forcibly took the victims, a tenth grader and a fifth grader student, to an abandoned dairy farm in Modhachar area of the upazila and raped them. Later, locals found the victims on

the spot and informed police, who later rescued the girls, the OC said.

# 'Jihadi Jack' lashes out at UK after it revokes his citizenship

AFP, London

The Muslim convert dubbed "Jihadi Jack", who is being held in northern Syria after joining the Islamic State group, on Monday said that Britain's decision to revoke his citizenship was "not something I recognise."

Jack Letts, 24, who was a dual UK-Canadian national, was captured by Kurdish forces in Syria in 2017 and is languishing in jail there, despite saying in a media interview earlier this year he would like to return to

But in a recent interview with ITV News Letts said that "stripping me of British citizenship and not stripping me is the same thing at the end of the day. It's not something I recognise."

"I never grew up being accepted as a British person anyway," he added.

"But, in the same way Britain hasn't helped me for two and a half years, Canada has done nothing. I always thought Canada was a better country, I had this illusion."

Canada's Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale dashed hopes of a swift return to Canada for Letts, posting to Twitter that the government had "no legal obligation to facilitate" the Sunday evening, Letts' parents accused

return of Canadian citizens detained Goodale earlier confirmed that the

United Kingdom had "revoked the citizenship of Jack Letts", expressing disappointment at the move. "It is a crime to travel internationally with a goal of supporting terrorism or

engaging in terrorism," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters Monday. "And that is a crime that we will continue to make all attempts to prosecute to the fullest extent of the

Letts converted to Islam at the age of 16 and fled his home in Oxfordshire, central England, two years later to join

"I'm not innocent," he told ITV News earlier this year. "I deserve what comes to me. But I just want it to be... appropriate... not just haphazard, freestyle punishment in Syria. His Canadian father and British

mother were convicted in a UK court in June of funding terrorism by sending him a small amount of money during his time in Syria, but were spared jail. In an interview on British television

the British government of "shirking responsibility" "It was a real shock that your

government can do this to you without any form of redress or discussion or way of actually contacting Jack, given that he's being held incommunicado and has no access to a lawyer," his mother Sally Lane, 57, said. "Jack and other people are now in a

legal black hole," she said, adding that she has been told that the Canadian government has been trying to bring The Mail on Sunday also reported that there were concerns that the issue could overshadow a meeting between

Trudeau and Britain's new leader Boris Johnson at the G7 summit in France next weekend. The decision is the latest instance of Britain revoking the citizenship of its nationals who went to join the Islamic State group's self-proclaimed

Canadian Prime Minister Justin

In February it faced criticism after stripping Shamima Begum, a teenager who travelled to Syria to marry an IS fighter, of her British citizenship.

AFP, Barcelona