এতে গ্রাহক সহজেই ই-কমার্স, ই-ব্যাংকিং, ই-শিক্ষা, সার্ক ভুক্ত দেশের মধ্যে ভারত ও শ্রীলঙ্কার পরই থ্রিজি

ই-স্বাস্থ্য, ই-গভর্ন্যান্স এবং টেলিসম্মেলনের মত সেবার জন্য বাংলাদেশের নাম উচারিত হবে বলে

পরিষেবা গ্রহণ করতে খ্লারবেন্। খ্রিজি চালু হলে তথ্য 庆 জার্মুন সুনীল কাঞ্ছিবোস। তিনি বলেন, খ্রিজি সেবায়

# US, Russia break deadlock on Syria

AFP, United Nations

The United States and Russia agreed a draft UN Security Council resolution Thursday on destroying Syria's chemical weapons, breaking a prolonged deadlock over the country's bitter conflict.

Meanwhile, international inspectors will get to work destroying Syria's chemical arsenal by next week, once a document drawn up to avert military strikes is agreed by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The OPCW's 41-member Executive Council will meet at 2000 GMT in The Hague to discuss the draft which lays out what US Secretary of State John Kerry has called the "rules and

ment, which Damascus has signed up to avert a military strike. After the 15-member security council held its first talks on the text, diplomats said a vote would be held yesterday with foreign minis-

regulations" of Syrian chemical disarma-

ters from the major powers taking part. If agreed, the resolution would be the first Russia-US disarmament plan.

passed by the panel on Syria **Arsenal largely** since the civil war -- which the UN says has killed more than 'unweaponized' 100,000 people -- started in AFP, Washington March 2011.

Syria's stockpile of chemical agents is largely "unweaponized" and could be eradicated more quickly than initially thought, the Washington Post reported Thursday citing a confidential US and Russian assessment. The report said American and

Power said had been Russian officials now believe Syria's "the catalyst" for the entire arsenal could be dismantled new unity. But it allows within a nine-month timeframe, for possible sanctions -and that the unweaponized state of after a new vote -- if there are the chemicals made it less likely breaches of a disarmament they could be hidden or seized by plan. terrorist organizations.

The text says the council "decides in event of noncompliance with this resolu-

The new draft US-

Russian resolution,

seen by AFP, does not

propose immediate

measures over a chem-

ical attack in a

Damascus suburb a

month ago that

tion, including unauthorized transfer of chemical weapons or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in the Syrian Arab Republic, to impose measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter."

It says the council can consider measures if the world chemical weapons watchdog or UN leader Ban Ki-moon report a breach of a



Firefighters applaud as a child is brought out alive from the rubble of a building collapse in Mumbai yesterday. (Story on page 16)

PHOTO: AFP

### Indian SC allows negative voting

AFP, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday recognised the right of voters to reject all candidates contesting polls, seen as a key reform ahead of general elections due next year.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam asked the election commission to change electronic voting machine ballots to give voters a choice of "none of the above".

"Democracy is all about choices and voters will be empowered by this right of negative voting," he said, ruling on a petition by the non-profit People's Union for Civil Liberties.

"Negative voting will send a clear signal to political parties and candidates as to what the voters think about them.'

Until now, voters had no right to reject candidates despite demands from activists to create such a provision.

The court noted that at least 13 other nations follow the practice of "elec-

tronic abstention". Voting machines are likely to be changed to conform with the court ruling in time for five state elections in November. General elections are due by May 2014.

MIGRANT LABOUR ABUSE

### Pressure grows on Qatar

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Qatar is facing growing international pressure to act against the growing death toll of migrant workers preparing for the 2022 World Cup as unions warned another 4,000 people could die in the Gulf emirate before a ball is kicked.

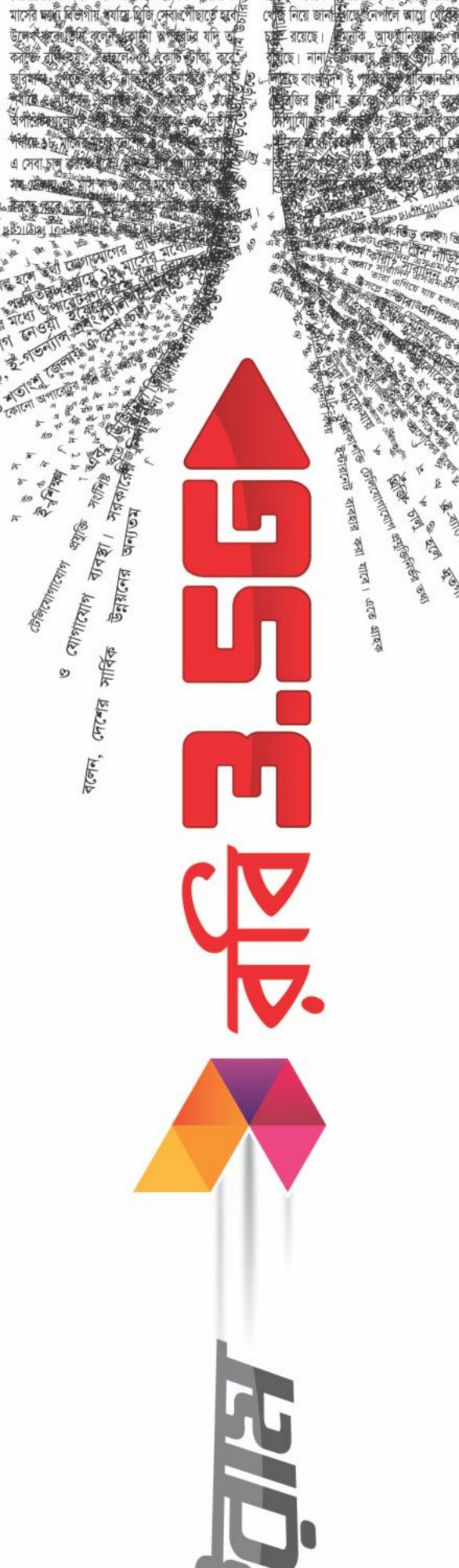
The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) said at least half a million extra workers from countries including Nepal, India and Sri Lanka were expected to flood in to Qatar to complete stadiums, hotels and infrastructure. Unless the Doha government made urgent reforms to working conditions the death toll among migrant builders could reach 600 a year, or almost a dozen a week, the ITUC said.

The stark warning came after a Guardian investigation revealed that 44 Nepalese workers died from 4 June to 8 August this year, about half from heart failure or workplace accidents. Workers described being forced to work in 50C heat without a supply of drinking water by employers who withhold salaries for several months and retain their passports to prevent them leaving the country. The investigation found sickness is endemic among workers living in overcrowded and insanitary conditions, and hunger has been reported.

A representative on the board of Fifa, which controversially awarded the world's biggest sporting event to Qatar in 2010, called for an urgent inquiry by the world governing body. Fifa announced it will discuss the issue at a meeting of its executive committee in Zurich next week and a spokesman said it was "very concerned about the reports presented by the media regarding labour rights' abuses and the conditions for construction workers". A spokesman for Qatar's World Cup organisers said they

were "appalled" by the Guardian revelations and said there was "no excuse" for the maltreatment of workers. In London, Tory MP Damian Collins said England and other major footballing nations should consider boycotting the World Cup if Fifa does not show it is taking concerns surrounding the Qatar 2022 tournament seriously.

The problem of workers' deaths is not confined to Nepalese migrants who make up 16% of Qatar's 1.2 million migrant labour force. The Indian ambassador in Qatar said 82 Indian workers died in the first five months of this year and 1,460 complained to the embassy about labour conditions and consular problems. More than 700 Indian workers died in Qatar between 2010 and 2012.



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### Bus blast kills 18 Pak govt officials

AFP, Peshawar

A powerful bomb tore through a bus carrying government workers in restive northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 18 people, officials said. More than 40 others

> were wounded in the attack on the bus hired by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government to take staff home from work. Nasir Durrani,

the police chief of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, told reporters the remotecontrolled bomb was planted at the back of the bus, which was reduced to a tangled mess of twisted metal by the force of the blast.

Shah Farman, provincial minister of information, confirmed the toll and said there were 44 wounded.

A near-identical attack on a government staff bus in another Peshawar suburb in June last year killed 19 people.

### Iran sanctions could be eased in months

Says Kerry; new nuke talks on Oct 15

AFP, United Nations

US Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday that if Iran takes rapid measures to cooperate with international monitoring of its nuclear program, Washington could begin lifting sanctions within months. Speaking to CBS News flagship 60

Minutes he said Iran should, for example, open up its Fordow underground nuclear facility to international inspection and undertake to scale down the level to which it enriches uranium.

"The United States is not going to lift the sanctions until it is clear that a very verifiable, accountable, transparent process is in place, whereby we know exactly what Iran is going be doing with its program," he said.

But, asked by his interviewer whether Iranian President Hassan Rohani had been right to predict that a deal could be in place within three to six months, Kerry replied: "Sure, it's possible."

"It's possible to have a deal sooner than that depending on how forthcoming and clear Iran is prepared to be," he said, according to a transcript provided by CBS. Kerry's comments were broadcast after a day in which he

had held a rare -- almost unprecedented -- encounter with his Iranian opposite number Mohammad Javad Zarif, and both took part in a meeting of the P5+1 Iran contact group.

Zarif and Rohani were in New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly and repeated their insistence that Iran has no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

The P5+1 talks are set to continue on October 15 and 16 in Geneva, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton told reporters after Thursday's talks.

FUEL PRICE PROTESTS

## Sudan forces shot dead 50 protesters

AFP, Khartoum

Sudan was braced for a fifth day of demonstrations yesterday against fuel price hikes that have turned into antigovernment protests, as security forces were accused of shooting dead 50 people.

Activists have called for protesters to take to the streets after the weekly Muslim prayers, and a massive deployment of security personnel was ordered. Soldiers also stood guard outside Khartoum petrol sta-

tions which opened for business, as long lines of cars waited to fill up, an AFP correspondent said. Internet access was cut for the second time this week,

after being briefly restored on Thursday following a previ-

ous break in the service. Most shops were closed but residents were out seeking supplies.

Trying to maintain a blackout on the unrest, the authorities on Friday seized or blocked publication of three newspapers, even though they are considered pro-government journalists said.

The Al-Sudani and Al-Majhar al-Siassi dailies were seized at the printing press, they said, while Al-Watan was ordered not to print after covering the unrest in its Thursday edition.

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies and London-based Amnesty International said 50 people were killed after being shot in the head or chest on Tuesday and Wednesday. "Local sources and activists have put the figure much

higher, in excess of 100," the groups said in a joint statement. They also expressed "deep concern" about reports of hundreds being detained and urged the authorities "to ensure that they are protected from torture and other ill-

treatment". US lawmakers propose

reforming NSA powers

AFP, Washington

Lawmakers overseeing US spy agencies on Thursday proposed stricter limits on the government's electronic surveillance while also calling for bolstering its authority to track terror suspects coming to America.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, defended the National Security Agency's collection of phone and email records as legal but said she and other members of the panel favored reforms to bolster oversight and restrict some data collection.

"Among other things, we are considering provisions to do the following: place limits on NSA's phone metadata program to change but preserve this program," Feinstein said at a committee hearing with intelligence chiefs.

While calling for tougher rules, the senator also said she backed measures to enhance the government's spying authority to monitor terror suspects entering the United States. The move was needed because current rules require the NSA to halt surveillance once the suspect sets foot on American soil, she said.

Asylum-seeker boat

sinks off Indonesia;

#### 20 killed AFP, Jakarta

At least 20 people, mostly children, have drowned and scores are missing after an Australia-bound boat carrying Middle Eastern asylum-seekers sank off Indonesia, police said yesterday.

Twenty-five people were plucked to safety but about another 75 were unaccounted for after the boat, carrying people from Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen, went down off the main island of Java, police said.

#### Minibus crash kills 20 in India

AFP, Shimla

A minibus swerved off a mountain road into a deep gorge in northern India killing 20 passengers yesterday, police said.

A 12-year-old boy was the lone survivor, after the bus rolled down into the 500-foot (152-metre) deep gorge in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

The accident occurred in the remote Sangrah area of Sirmaur district, some 150 kilometres from the state capital Shimla.

#### 5 killed as Japan ship capsizes

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's coastguard recovered what appeared to be five bodies after a Japanese cargo ship capsized following a collision with a Sierra Leoneregistered vessel yesterday, television footage showed.

Coastguards found five bodies inside the Eifuku Maru No. 18, which overturned off the coast of Japan after crashing into the much larger Jia Hui, which weighs 2,687 tonnes.

### Suu Kyi's NLD marks Silver Jubilee with charter plea

AFP, Yangon

are British.

Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party with a fresh appeal to overhaul the country's military-drafted constitution.

"If the constitution is not amended, we cannot say that the country is going on the democracy track... the 2015 general elections will not be fair, " Suu Kyi said. The charter -- approved in a referendum in

2008 as Myanmar reeled from a devastating cyclone -- is a major obstacle to Suu Kyi's ambition to run for president in the 2015 elections.

It blocks anyone whose spouses or children are overseas citizens from leading the country, a clause widely believed to be targeted at the Nobel laureate, whose two sons



It also ring-fences a quarter of the seats in parliament for unelected military personnel.

Hundreds of party members and supporters gathered at the NLD's ramshackle offices in central Yangon to celebrate the party's Silver Jubilee.

In a speech shown on a screen to a crowd that spilled onto the street outside, Suu Kyi thanked supporters around the world for standing behind the party in its long struggle against repression.

"We have been able to survive for the last 25 years because of the stand and support of the people from all over the world who believe in the same values in which we

believe," she said. The NLD was founded in 1988 after a popular uprising against the military junta

that left thousands dead.