## Palmyra arch

FROM PAGE 16 Palmyra, a Unesco World Heritage Site northeast of Damascus known as the "Pearl of the Desert", was taken

back by the Russian-backed Syrian army from IS fighters last month. The city was a major tourist destination before the Syrian conflict erupted in 2011, known for its

ancient ruins, colonnaded streets and 2,000-year-old temples. IS seized Palmyra last year and beheaded its 82-year-old former

antiquities chief three months The jihadists destroyed some of

the city's most striking monuments and used the ancient amphitheatre as a venue for public executions. The remains of the Triumphal

Arch, dating back to the era of Roman Emperor Severus in the third century, are now scattered on the ground, with only the two columns that once sustained the central crown still standing.

Experts are divided on whether the ancient ruins can be restored. Syria's antiquities chief Maamoun Abdulkarim has said

the job could be done in five years but Annie Sartre-Fauriat, a member of a Unesco group of Syrian heritage experts has voiced doubts.

Abdulkarim repeated his appeal for international assistance for the restoration at yesterday's event in London and suggested that the replica arch could go on display in the modern city of Palmyra.

The arch is the highest-profile project yet for the IDA, which is also working on building a Million Image Database of 3D pictures of threatened monuments in conflict zones throughout the Middle East and north Africa.

#### Flat handover

FROM PAGE 16

The infrastructure for supplying electricity and water to the buildings are being built. The supply of gas will depend on the government's approval as it is not allowing new gas connections since 2010, the project director

The residents will also be able to use the metro rail, once it is constructed, he added.

### Charge sheet

FROM PAGE 16 Court No-1, said Subir Roy, inspector of the court.

Additional Judge Masud Ali passed an order to hand over the case filed against Probir last year to the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka Metropolitan Daira Judge Court and fixed May 25 for the hearing on the case.

Probir, 55, editor of Bangla daily Bangla 71 and online news portal u71news.com, was arrested on August 16 last year at his office in the capital after Faridpur local Awami League leader Swapan Kumar Paul had filed the case under the ICT Act over a Facebook

In the Facebook post dated August 10, Probir said his life was under threat and that now Local Government and Rural Development Minister Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain, businessman Moosa Bin Shamser and condemned fugitive war criminal Abul Kalam Azad would be responsible if he was killed.

Police produced the journalist before the court on August 17 and took him on remand for three days for libel on the minister, police sources said.

However, he was freed on bail two days later.

#### Entire EC

FROM PAGE 3 Majumdar said.

The commission has proved that fair elections are not possible under partisan government, he said. An accurate electoral roll, participation of multiple candidates, ensuring intimidation-free environment for voters, and transparency are the major prime prerequisites for a free and fair elec-

tion, he added. Nomination trading, widespread violence, intimidating rival candidates, and "open" electoral irregularities have polluted the electoral system, while partisan UP

polls have increased the intensity of violence, he viewed.

He also emphasised dialogue with political parties to hold fair elections.

Media personality and SHUJAN member Muhammad Jahangir said if such irregularities and violence got entrenched in local government polls, the next parliamentary election could not be held in a fair manner.

Reading out a written statement, SHUJAN Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar said the EC must be strict in applying law to hold fair polls. The government and political parties must cooperate with the commission in this regard, he added.

## Some went abroad

work or had migrated. They or their children, who were born in countries like Australia and Canada, were later radicalised and they joined IS," Monirul told a news briefing at the media centre of

FROM PAGE 16

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP). According to him, three to four of

them have already been killed. Monirul said those people joined IS in Iraq and Syria from countries

like Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Australia and some European coun-Citing an example, he claimed that a man of Hindu religion had gone to Japan for studies. He

became a university teacher there after completing his PhD. He then married a Japanese woman, converted to Islam, left the country and joined IS with his wife and four children, Monirul claimed. Dabiq, the propaganda maga-

zine of IS, published an interview of one Shaykh Abu Ibrahim al-Hanif, the so-called chief of the "Khilafah's soldiers in Bengal".

April 13, "Ibrahim" said IS wants to strengthen IS' capacity in Bangladesh as its "geographical position is convenient for operating Jihad in India and Myanmar in future". Monirul played down the maga-

zine and said its claims of responsibility for earlier incidents were not true. "They have no real knowledge about Bangladesh," he said.

Monirul said they have so far identified over 50 suspects in con-

nection with attacks, including the one at the Shia mosque that the IS had claimed responsibility for.

"But none of the arrestees admitted to having links with IS or Al-Qaeda. They also have very little knowledge about IS or Al-Qaeda," he said, adding that they were actually members of home-grown militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

The IS has not given any formal announcement of opening its branch in Bangladesh. But according to some reports, it claimed responsibility for some incidents, including the recent killings of two foreigners and the Hossaini Dalan attack.

The government all along has been saying that the global terror body had no organisational presence in the country. About "Ibrahim's" claim about

the significance of Bangladesh's

geographical location, Monirul said it was not possible as the people of Bangladesh are religious but they despise extremism. He claimed that Bangladesh is In the interview published on not like Afghanistan or Syria where militants could expand extremism.

> stray attacks here, but they would not have the capability to establish their supremacy, he said. He said someone with Bangladeshi roots, who had joined IS, might have written the article in

Militant outfit might carry out some

Dabiq. He, however, said IS was losing territory in Syria and that was why it was looking for new land in other

# Taliban truck

FROM PAGE 16

smoke billowing into the sky and rattled windows several kilometres away.

The brazen assault near the defence ministry marks the first major Taliban attack in the Afghan capital since the insurgents announced the start of this year's fighting season. "One of the suicide attackers

blew up an explosives-laden truck in a public parking lot next to a government building," Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told reporters.

"The second attacker engaged security forces in a gunbattle before being gunned down."

Interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said 30 people, including women and children, were killed in the attack and warned that the toll could rise further.

He added that more than 320 were wounded, with many of them battling for their lives in hospital.

The pitched firefight appeared to die down several hours after the powerful explosion, but some security officials expressed concern that other bombers may still be on the loose.

"I saw wounded people lying on the road and screaming helplessly," said Sadiqullah, who runs a tea stall near the building which was attacked.

"It was devastating. We are fed up with such attacks. How long must ordinary civilians suffer like this?"

The interior ministry said hundreds of kilograms of explosives were used in the bombing, the deadliest so far this year in the Afghan capital.

The scene of the attack was littered with upturned cars, many of them mangled and charred.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed their fighters had managed to enter the offices of the National Directorate of Security, the main spy agency.

Sediqqi conceded that one of the attackers managed to breach the compound, a government office responsible for providing security to government VIPs, but said he was gunned down after a firefight.

'COWARDLY ATTACKS'

"(We) condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Puli Mahmood Khan neighbourhood of Kabul, as a result of which many of our countrymen were martyred and wounded," President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement.

"Such cowardly terrorist attacks will not weaken the will and determination of Afghan security forces to fight against terrorism." UN chief Ban Ki-moon strongly

condemned the Taliban suicide truck bombing in central Kabul. "I would like to express my deep-

est condolences for the victims and their families and friends," the UN secretary general said at a press conference during a visit to The Hague. "I condemn strongly these terror-

ist attacks," he said, adding "there's no justification whatsoever (for) attacking civilian people as well as security people." 'WAR CRIMES'

"This attack shows the devastation caused by the use of explosive devices in urban areas and once more demonstrates complete disregard for the lives of Afghan civilians," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

"The use of explosives in populated areas, in circumstances almost certain to cause immense suffering to civilians, may amount to war crimes.'

The Taliban last week announced the start of their spring offensive even as the government tries to bring them back to the negotiating table to end the drawn-out conflict.

The insurgents warned they would "employ large-scale attacks on enemy positions across the country" during the offensive dubbed Operation Omari in honour of the movement's late founder Mullah Omar, whose death was announced last year.

The Taliban began the fighting season last week by targeting the northern city of Kunduz, which they briefly captured last year in a stunning setback for Afghan forces.

But officials said Afghan security forces drove Taliban fighters back from the city on Friday.

The annual spring offensive normally marks the start of the "fighting season", though this past winter the lull was shorter and rebels continued to battle government forces, albeit with less intensity.

The Taliban's resurgence has raised serious questions about Afghan forces' capacity to hold their own. Nato estimates that a staggering 5,500 troops were killed last year.

Peace talks which began last summer were abruptly halted after it was revealed that Mullah Omar had been dead for two years, a disclosure which sparked infighting in the insurgents' ranks.

A four-country group comprising Afghanistan, the United States, China and Pakistan has been holding meetings since January aimed at jump-starting negotiations, though their efforts have so far been in vain.

## Assad's future not up for discussion

Says Syrian govt

REUTERS, Amman

The Syrian government's chief negotiator said President Bashar al-Assad's future was not up for discussion at peace talks, underlining the bleak prospects for reviving UN-led negotiations postponed by the opposition.

Bashar Ja'afari, speaking to Lebanese TV station al Mayadeen, also said his team was pushing for an expanded government as the solution to the war - an idea rejected by the opposition fighting for five years to topple Assad. Ja'afari was reiterating the

Syrian government's position as spelt out last month ahead of the latest round of talks, indicating no shift on the part of Damascus as it continues to enjoy firm military backing from Russia and Iran.

"In Geneva we have one mandate only to arrive at an expanded national government only, this is our mandate ... this is the goal we strive to achieve in the Geneva peace talks," Ja'afari said in comments broadcast overnight. He added that these views were relayed to UN Syria mediator Staffan de Mistura.

### 3 schoolboys drown in Punarbhaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

They are Kalu Mia, SM

Three schoolboys drowned while taking a bath in a river in Dinajpur yesterday.

Sirajuddin Nayan, both 14, and Mohammad Raj, 16, of Ghasipara area under Dinajpur municipality. Kalu, a class-IX student of Dinajpur Police Lines High School,

and Raj, a class-X student at Dinajpur High School, were cousins. The other victim was also a class-IX student at Dinajpur High School. The boys went missing after going to the Punarbhaba river for having a bath around 11:00am.

Their bicycles, clothes and cell phones were found on the bank, said police, quoting locals in Bangibechaghat area. The Fire Service and Civil

Defence in the district was informed immediately about the incident. Around 4:00am, the rescuers

along with the locals recovered the bodies of the schoolboys from the same area. AKM Khalequzzaman, officer-

in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they also went to the spot on information.

## Toddler stabbed

FROM PAGE 16

future" in the capital's Banasree. Last night, Murad filed a murder case with Uttar Khan Police Station against his wife.

police custody, was out of danger. Talking to journalists at the DMCH yesterday afternoon, she wondered who would want to kill her or her infant. On Monday night, police rushed to Murad's house in

Mukti, undergoing treatment in

Masterpara area on information that his wife and son were stabbed Asaduzzaman, sub-inspector of Uttar Khan Police Station, told this correspondent yesterday. They then took Mukti and Nihal to a private hospital where doctors

declared the boy dead around 11:30pm, he said. Sources at the DMC morgue said there were four stab marks in

the body. Police said they were yet to

recover the murder weapon. Murad's next-door neighbour Naznin Akhter yesterday told this correspondent that both Murad and Mukti are married for the second time.

They used to quarrel frequently, as they suspected each other of having extramarital affairs.

Mukti wanted to live separately. She also had feuds with her husband over the custody of their child, said the neighbour.

On Saturday night, Murad drove Mukti out of the house following a fight. She had to stay outside until their neighbours calmed things.

"Yesterday [Monday] evening, Mukti told me to lock the door of their flat from outside so that she didn't have to open it when her husband returned at night. She told me she wanted to sleep," said Naznin.

Around 10:00pm on Monday, Murad entered the flat and found his bloodied son and wife on the bed. He then knocked at the door of Naznin's flat and sought her help, she added. Alamgir Hossain, inspector

(investigation) of Uttar Khan Police Station, said they were yet to talk to Mukti since she was under treatment. DMCH sources said one of

Nihal's uncles received his body from the morgue for burial at their village home in Bhola.

## Edging closer to prisoner swap deal with Putin

Says Ukraine president AFP, Kiev

Ukraine's President Petro

Poroshenko yesterday said he had made progress towards agreeing a deal with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to swap jailed pilot Nadiya Savchenko for two alleged Russian soldiers. "On the basis of preliminary

developments I think that we managed to agree a specific formula for freeing Nadiya," Poroshenko told journalists following a phone call with Putin late Monday. Ukrainian military pilot

Savchenko was jailed by a Russian court in March after being convicted of the murder of two Russian journalists who died covering the pro-Moscow rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

# Hopes dim

FROM PAGE 16

been forecast near zero this year due to plunging oil revenues.

The quake destroyed or damaged more than 1,500 buildings, triggered mudslides and left 18,000 people sleeping in shelters, according to the government.

In Pedernales, a devastated rustic beach town, crowds gathered behind yellow tape to watch firemen and police sift through rubble overnight. The town's soccer stadium served as a makeshift relief centre and morgue.

"Find my brother! Please!" shouted Manuel, 17, throwing his arms to the sky in front of a corner store where his younger brother had been working when the quake struck.

When an onlooker said recovering a body would at least give him the comfort of burying his sibling, he yelled: "Don't say that!" DEATH TOLL LIKELY TO RISE

But for Manuel and hundreds of other anxious Ecuadoreans missing their relatives, time was running out. As of yesterday, rescue efforts would

Interior Minister Jose Serrano told Reuters. In many isolated villages or towns, quake

become more of a search for corpses,

survivors struggled without water, power or transport. Rescuers continued their search

but the sickly stench of death told them what they were most likely to find.

"There are bodies crushed in the wreckage and from the smell it's obvious they are dead," said Army Captain Marco Borja in

the small tourist village of Canoa. "Today we brought out between seven and eight bodies."

The mayor of Muisne island, the locality closest to the epicentre of the quake, said all inhabitants had been evacuated to tempo-

rary shelters on the nearby mainland. "We've lost everything we acquired with years of work," he told local radio. "We need the government to relocate us."

Nearly 400 rescue workers flew in from Latin American neighbours, along with 83 specialists from Switzerland and Spain.

The United States said it would dispatch a team of disaster experts, while Cuba was sending doctors.

To finance emergency efforts, some \$600 million in credit from multilateral lenders was activated, the government said.

Ecuador also said Monday it had signed off on a \$2 billion credit line from the China Development Bank to finance public investment. Ecuador and China, the country's main financier since 2009, had been negotiating the credit before the quake.

#### Won't allow FROM PAGE 16

being built across the country by the government," she told a discussion at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh in the city.

The programme was organised to mark the 44th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Krishak League. The PM said the country will surely go for

industrialisation, but not at the cost of agriculture. "Where the raw materials for the industries would come from? What the industries would produce if the arable land is destroyed like the way it is being damaged now?" she questioned. Terming Bangladesh an agriculture-

dependent country, she said the govern-

ment is always ready to provide all kinds of

assistance to the farmers. Hasina, also the chief of the ruling Awami League, directed the Krishak League leaders to further strengthen the organisation and visit villages across the country to project the government's stance on support-

ing farmers. She advised the students of schools, colleges and universities to go to agriculture fields and learn the things practically. She suggested the authorities concerned to set aside some marks for this part of student activity.

The PM recalled the tragic killing of 18 farmers demanding agricultural inputs as well as 17 workers demanding their due wages during the tenure of a previous BNPled government.

The AL governments, she said, over the last seven years have taken various pragmatic steps to ensure development of farmers and the agriculture sector by providing fertilisers, seeds and machineries at subsidised prices. Bangladesh is now in a remarkable posi-

tion in terms production of fish, vegetable and other agricultural products, Hasina added She said the country will celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in

2020 and the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence in 2021 as a middleincome nation. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, AL General Secretary and Public Administration Minister Syed Ashraful

Islam, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Krishak League General Secretary Khandaker Shamshul Huq Reza also spoke at the programme.

#### Ctg woman

FROM PAGE 16 7:00am and 11:00am.

"The case seems to be mysterious. We are investigating to find out whether Shelly took her life after killing her daughter or

they were murdered," said the OC. The bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

# Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer

Reference: LGED/XEN/BARI/ET-2013/1781

CA/Rd/09

Dated: 17/04/2016

e-Tender Notice-156-161/2015-16

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

e-Tender No. Package No. Name of work Last receiving date & time 156/2015-16 IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-20 Part-a): Improvement of road from North Krishnokati GPS-16/05/2016, Krishnokati High School via Chowdhuri Bari-Siraj Khan Master Bari Time-12.00 (Krishnokati Jugi Bari Culver to Krishnokati High School via Krishnokati GPS & Nijamkali Khal Foot Bridge at Ch. 729m-1889m. Part- b): Construction of 01 No. 1.0m x 1.0m culvert at Ch. 828m on the same road. ID No: 506074128 [Bakerganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49868 Improvement of road from Kanki Bazar Bridge-Nurnagar Bazar via 157/2015-16 IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-22 16/05/2016, Time-12.00 Amena Khatun Junior High School (Kanki Bazar to Middle

Mahespur Hat via Durgapur & Nurnagar Hat) at Ch. 600m-1680m. ID No: 506074106 [Bakerganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49867 Improvement of road from back side of Nowroj Mia's House-16/05/2016, 158/2015-16 IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-23 Bangla Bazar via Durgapur GPS & Laxmighar (Padrisibpur UP Time-12.00 Office to Bangla Bazar Sluice Gate via Puiauta Junior High School) at Ch. 1867m-2817m. ID No.: 506073007 [Bakerganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49865 16/05/2016, Improvement of Ragunathpur Go-Hat (Kajir Hat)-Katuajhuri Khal, 159/2015-16 IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-24 (Batagi Upazila Border) at Ch.00m-400m. ID No: 506074246 Time-12.00 [Bakergani] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49866 IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-34 Part- a): Improvement of road from Andermanik UP-Banikerhat 16/05/2016, 160/2015-16 Bazar via Ekkoterhat Bazar & Khunna Bazar (Ch. 315m-4000m). Time-12.00 Part- b): Construction of 01 No. 2.0m x 2.0m culvert at Ch. 2772m on the same road & Part-c): Construction of 03 Nos 0.625m x 0.60m culvert at Ch. 860m, 2240m & 2643m on the same road. ID No: 506623001 [Mehendiganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-51064 BDRIDP/BAR/SDR/C 16/05/2016, 161/2015-16 (a) Improvement of road Shibpasha-Sholna Talukder Bari via

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

9,37,125.00] [Barisal-S] e-ID-54326

Malek Police Bari at Ch. 0.0-1600m (Sholna DC Road-Tulatola-

Badamtola with Link Road Tulatola-Ghorami Bari Bridge) [ID No.

506515006] (b) Construction of 1.6 x 1.6m Box Culvert and U-Type

Culvert at Ch. 694m & 1300m respectively on Shibpasha-Sholna

Talukder Bari via Malek Police Bari [Salvaged Value Tk

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through

any registered bank's branches up to 17.00 on previous day of receiving tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). **Executive Engineer** GD-881

LGED, Barisal

Time-12.00