

Palmyra arch

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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 later.

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

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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 said.

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

Charge sheet

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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 post.

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 Shamsar 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

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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 election, 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 SHUIAN 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, SHUIAN 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

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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 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 countries.

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

In the interview published on 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 magazine 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 not like Afghanistan or Syria where militants could expand extremism. Militant outfit might carry out some 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 Dabiq.

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

3 schoolboys drown in Punarbhaha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

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

They are Kalu Mia, SM 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 Punarbhaha 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

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future" in the capital's Banasree.

Last night, Murad filed a murder case with Uttar Khan Police Station against his wife.

Mukti, undergoing treatment in 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 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

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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 become more of a search for corpses, Interior Minister Jose Serrano told Reuters.

In many isolated villages or towns, quake 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 temporary 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

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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.

Termining Bangladesh an agriculture-dependent country, she said the government 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 supporting 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 BNP-led government.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Barisal

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

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-Krishnokati High School via Chowdhuri Bari-Siraj Khan Master Bari (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	16/05/2016, Time-12.00
157/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-22	Improvement of road from Kanki Bazar Bridge-Nurnagar Bazar via 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	16/05/2016, Time-12.00
158/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-23	Improvement of road from back side of Nowroj Mia's House-Bangla Bazar via Durgapur GPS & Laxmighar (Padrisipur UP Office to Bangla Bazar Sluice Gate via Puiata Junior High School) at Ch. 1867m-2817m. ID No.: 506073007 [Bakerganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49865	16/05/2016, Time-12.00
159/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-24	Improvement of Ragunathpur Go-Hat (Kajir Hat)-Katuajhuri Khal, (Batagi Upazila Border) at Ch.00m-400m. ID No: 506074246 [Bakerganj] (Re-Tender) e-ID-49866	16/05/2016, Time-12.00
160/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-34	Part- a): Improvement of road from Andermanik UP-Banikerhat Bazar via Ekkoterhat Bazar & Khunna Bazar (Ch. 315m-4000m). 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	16/05/2016, Time-12.00
161/2015-16	BDRIDP/BAR/SDR/C CA/Rd/09	(a) Improvement of road Shibpasha-Sholna Talukder Bari via 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. 9,37,125.00] [Barisal-S] e-ID-54326	16/05/2016, Time-12.00

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.

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).

GD-881
Executive Engineer
LGED, Barisal