



This picture taken yesterday shows the ancient city of Palmyra in central Syria. Syrian troops backed by Russian jets completed the recapture of the historic city from the Islamic State group on Thursday, the Kremlin and the army said.

PHOTO: AFP

2 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 16
 "Girls for Global Goals" campaign empowering 600 young girls with knowledge about the SDGs. This led to 4,500 volunteers organising more than 500 programmes.
 He also promoted the campaign "Know your SDGs" to raise awareness and reached out to 42,000 young people, added the press release.
 The award giving ceremony would be held at the Marlborough House in London on March 15.
 This year's finalists are recognised for spearheading projects that will contribute to the SDGs -- a set of 17 global targets that governments have committed to achieve by 2030, it added.
 The Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work celebrate outstanding adolescents and

young adults aged 15-29 from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Americas, Africa and Europe, who are leading initiatives ranging from poverty alleviation to peace-building.
 The finalists were chosen by a panel of judges including representatives of Commonwealth High Commissions, Commonwealth organisations and young leaders. The Commonwealth Young Person of the Year will be announced on March 15 alongside regional young persons of the year for Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Americas, Africa and Europe.
 The shortlisted finalists hail from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Guyana, Jamaica, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Secret of Big Ben's

FROM PAGE 16
 The team used two Scanning Laser Doppler Vibrometers which enabled them to measure the clocks vibrations without touching it or losing measurement accuracy.
 The bell produces its unique sound through vibrations which create pressure waves in the air at specific frequencies.
 The researchers said Big Ben is thicker than other bells of a similar size and weighs more, which is why it has a higher pitch than expected for its diameter.
 Martin Cockrill, an engineer and technical specialist at the University of Leicester's Advanced Structural Dynamics Evaluation Centre (ASDEC) who led the measurement team, said: "Aside from the technical aspects one of the most challenging parts of the job was carrying all of our equipment up the 334 steps of the spiral staircase to the belfry.
 "Then to get everything set up before the first chime, we were literally working against the clock."
 "Many of the vibrations in the metal

of Big Ben are too tiny to be seen by the naked eye.
 "But this is what we were able to map using the lasers and not just one or two points on the surface; we were able to get over 500 measurements across the surface which just wouldn't have been possible with previous technologies," he said.
 When a bell is struck, it causes different vibrations or modes, and the frequency and intensity of these modes are mainly affected by the profile of the bell.
 "This was such a once in a lifetime opportunity, one which was perfectly matched to our skills and resources," said Cockrill.
 "You cannot just glue sensors to a national treasure such as Big Ben. Our ability to do the whole thing quickly without touching the bell was key to the whole project," he said.
 Martin Cockrill and Max Chownietz, a graduate engineer with ASDEC, led the measurement team with two other members of the team, Chris Howe and Amy Stubbs doing the legwork.

Limit harms of new child marriage

FROM PAGE 1
 Under the previous law, the legal age of marriage was 18 for women and 21 for men, with no exceptions.
 "The focus now must be on containing the damage caused by Bangladesh legalising child marriage," said Heather Barr, senior researcher on women's rights at HRW. "Nothing can change the fact that this is a destructive law. But carefully drafted regulations can mitigate some of the harm to girls."
 Donors, diplomats, the United Nations, civil society, and activists fought to defeat the law. Now that the law has been passed, the government should ensure that the provision permitting child marriage will be used rarely and carefully, said the release.
 According to the HRW, the government previously said the goal of legalising child marriage in "special circumstances" was to respond to situations involving "accidental or unlawful pregnancy" of unmarried girls. Bangladesh has not done enough to help adolescent girls avoid unwanted pregnancies, such as ensuring access to information and services on reproductive health and sexuality.
 In a 2015 report, HRW found serious gaps in access to information about family planning, and access to

contraception for young people in Bangladesh.
 The rights organisation stressed the need for a swift government move to draft regulations setting out the circumstances in which children under 18 can marry, and the standards judges should use when considering requests to authorise child marriages.
 The government should draft these regulations in close consultation with organisations working on child marriage and on children's rights, many of which have decades of experience helping girls at risk. The regulation should be narrowly limited to truly protect the best interests of the child.
 It should also ban all marriages before the age of 16; interpretations of international law say that marriage before the age of 16 should never be permitted under any circumstances, said the HRW.
 The regulations should require that a social worker be assigned to each case, to assist the judge and to follow through with services and support for girls.
 Before approving a child marriage, the judge should confirm that girls seeking to marry have been offered comprehensive services, including help continue school, social service support for them and their families,

and comprehensive reproductive health information and services.
 "Judges are now the last line of protection against this law being used to force girls into marriage against their will, or even allow rapists to escape penalty by marrying their victims," said Heather Barr.
 "The government should provide clear guidance for judges, so that this provision is used rarely and with great caution," she added.

No hands

FROM PAGE 16
 Married in 2011, Bhanu and Korshed live in Gazipur's Konabari. They have a three-year-old son.
 "I am working hard so that my son sees good days one day. I want him to succeed in life," she added.

UN envoy

FROM PAGE 16
 spread gang rape during those operations.
 Setting up a COI must be done through a resolution approved by council members, which could be adopted before the session ends later this month.

Worker dies in cold storage blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj
 A worker was killed and a technician injured yesterday morning when a compressor exploded during the test run of a newly constructed cold storage in Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila.
 The body of Kausar Ali, 30, son of Mosaddek Ali of Bholhat upazila's Panchanandapur village, was sent to the sadar hospital morgue for an autopsy.
 Faruk Hossain, 37, son of Amir Ali of Khulna, was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital from Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex as his condition deteriorated.
 A fire following the explosion destroyed five of seven units of the facility at Alampur village before firefighters said to have doused the flames.
 Built by Chapai Agro Product Limited, the cold storage was due to be inaugurated soon, said Gomostapur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahin Kamal.

Gunsmith

FROM PAGE 1
 treatment at Maheshkhali Sadar Hospital.
 Police said they found 200 yaba pills on Syedur and 13 "home-made firearms" and 32 bullets at a makeshift camp.
 A team of 50 policemen on a tip-off surrounded the hill, known as Keruntoli, was fired upon around 11:00am and retaliated with some 40 shots before reaching the camp half an hour later, said the official.
 Three cases under legal provisions concerning attacks on police, firearms and murder have been filed.
 The area is a hotspot for manufacture of illegal firearms with 48 being recovered along with 157 bullets and six gunsmiths and dealers arrested in the last two months, says Assistant Superintendent of Police SM Iqbal Hossain.

Bogra

FROM PAGE 2
 Later, the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council launched an investigation and suspend the internships of four interns for six months based on the probe findings.
 "Their role was proved in the attack," Health Secretary Sirajul Islam had told The Daily Star. After six months, they can resume their internship, he added.

Mexican journalist shot and killed

AFP, Acapulco
 A Mexican journalist was shot and killed Thursday in the country's violent Guerrero state, regional authorities said.
 "I regret to confirm the homicide of journalist Cecilio Pineda," said Roberto Alvarez, a spokesman for the state's security department, on Twitter.
 The regional prosecutor's office is investigating the crime, he said.
 The journalist -- who had directed the regional newspaper La Voz de la Tierra Caliente and collaborated with the national daily El Universal -- was shot while "in a hammock" at a car wash in the municipality of Ciudad Altamirano, where he lived, the Guerrero prosecutor's office said in a statement.
 Paramedics arrived at the scene but Pineda Brito died while receiving first aid.
 The journalist covered police news in Tierra Caliente, a zone for growing marijuana and producing opium, which has been hit by a wave of kidnappings in recent months.
 He had denounced threats on social networks and in September 2015 managed to evade an attack outside his house.

I have never seen

FROM PAGE 16
 Iraq fought wars with neighbouring Iran and Kuwait and endured a decade of devastating sanctions. That was followed by a US-led invasion which toppled Saddam and led to years of sectarian war across the country.
 "Even under the Saddam era, we were afraid because of the atrocities and the people killed," she said. "But nothing is compared to this phase".
 Since the launch of the military campaign in October to retake Mosul from Islamic State, Khatla remained in her home in the city's southwestern al-Mamoun district, now in the hands of Iraq's US-backed Counter Terrorism

Service (CTS).
 At times she took shelter in her basement with the 20 chickens that she looked after - reminders, she said, of her youth when she also herded sheep and cattle.
 "I haven't lost any chickens, not even a one little chick," she said. "We were trapped in the basement and we could hear the bullets hitting the metal roof of the chicken pen."
 Her grandsons carried her for miles in the desert to reach the CTS lines, and then she was taken on a bus to a camp for internally displaced people.
 "We just want to make it through this war," she said. "This one will make stories for generations to tell."

Sessions steps aside

FROM PAGE 16
 Adam Schiff, a Democratic ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, rejected Sessions's claim that his contacts with Kislyak were unrelated to his work with the Trump campaign as "simply not credible."
 "In the midst of a Russian campaign aimed at undermining our election and as a highly visible proxy for candidate Trump, Sessions would have had to be extraordinarily naive or gullible to believe that the ambassador was seeking him out in his office for a discussion on military matters, and Sessions is neither," he said in a statement.
 "I have come to the reluctant conclusion that the Attorney General should step down," he said, echoing calls made earlier by top Democrats in both chambers of the Republican-controlled Congress.
FOCUS ON RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT
 Trump has come under increasing pressure over Russia's interference in the election and alleged contacts between his entourage and Moscow.
 According to officials, US intelligence agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue to investigate just how and how much Moscow intruded into US politics, and whether that effort -- which US intelligence chiefs say was directed by President Vladimir Putin -- involved collusion with the Trump campaign.
 Four congressional committees have opened probes into the issue, although Democrats fear Republicans will seek to bury their investigations to protect Trump's young administration.
 Two weeks ago, Trump's newly appointed national security advisor Michael Flynn was forced to resign amid controversy over his discussions with Kislyak in late December, when the Obama administration was hitting Moscow with retaliatory sanctions and expulsions for its election interference.
 On Thursday, The New York Times reported that Flynn had also met the diplomat in Trump Tower in December, with Trump son-in-law and senior advisor Jared Kushner also in attendance.
 Sessions's own meetings with the envoy took place much earlier, in July

and September, just as accusations of Russian interference in the election were mounting, according to The Washington Post.
 While meetings between political campaigns and diplomats are generally common, a Clinton spokesman said Thursday there were no meetings or calls between her team and any Russian official during the campaign.
INDEPENDENT PROBE
 After reviewing ethics rules for his office, Sessions said: "I have decided to recuse myself from any existing or future investigations of any matters related in any way to the campaigns for president of the United States."
 Speaking to Fox News Thursday evening, Sessions reiterated that he did not discuss the campaign with Kislyak.
 "When I campaigned for Trump, I was not involved with anything like that," he said. "You can be sure."
 When asked if he believed the Russian government had favoured Trump over Clinton, Sessions said he had "never been told that," adding "you'd have to ask them."
 Despite the swirling controversy, few hard facts are publicly available on what US investigators know and suspect about the contacts and about Russia's alleged operation to disrupt the election last year.
 The New York Times reported two weeks ago, citing US intelligence sources, that three Trump campaign staff had communicated with Russian intelligence officers over the past year.
 The White House labelled that report "false" and has accused Democrats, the media and the intelligence community of a political effort to undermine the Trump administration.
 Trump's White House has lobbied the FBI, reportedly the CIA and two Republicans who head committees leading investigations into Russia's election meddling, to knock down media reports on the alleged links.
 That added to Democrats' worries that investigations could be tainted, and lawmakers were pressing for an independent counsel to be named to study the web of allegations about Trump and Russia free from political interference.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Department of Land Records and Surveys
 Office of the Project Director & Director (Surveys)
 28 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani
 Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

জুমি জরিপে সহায়তা করুন এবং আপনার জুমি যত্বসিপি প্রণয়ন নিশ্চিত করুন।

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Land (MOL)
2. Agency	Department of Land Records and Surveys (DLR&S)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director & Director (Surveys)
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Invitation for	Procurement of Raw Materials and Spare Parts for the Map Printing Press of DLR&S(GD-24)
7. Invitation Ref. No.	31.03.2692.004.14.03.17-54
8. Date	28/02/2017

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
-----------------------	-----------------------------

FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget and GOB
--------------------------------	----------------------------

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11. Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	5200
12. Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Strengthening of Settlement Press, Map Printing Press and Preparation of Digital Maps Project
13. Tender Package No.	GD-24
14. Tender Package Name	Procurement of Raw Materials and Spare Parts for the Map Printing Press of DLR&S(GD-24)
15. Tender Publication Date	Between 01/03/2017 and 04/03/2017
16. Tender Last Selling Date	16/03/2017 at 04:00 pm
17. Tender Closing Date and Time	20/03/2017 at 02:00 pm
18. Tender Opening Date and Time	20/03/2017 at 03:30 pm
19. Name & Address of the Office(s):	
Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Department of Land Records and Surveys(1st Floor), Room No. 217, 28 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
Selling Tender Document (Others)	(i) Deputy Chief, Ministry of Land, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Secretary, Land Appeal Board, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. (iii) Deputy Land Reforms Commissioner(Admn.), Land Reforms Board, 141-143 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Project Director & Director(Surveys), Department of Land Records and Surveys(1st Floor), Room No. 219, 28 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (ii) Deputy Chief, Ministry of Land, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000. (iii) Secretary, Land Appeal Board, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. (iv) Deputy Land Reforms Commissioner(Admn.), Land Reforms Board, 141-143 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director & Director(Surveys), Department of Land Records and Surveys(1st Floor), Room No. 219, 28 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
20. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Not applicable

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21. Eligibility of Tenderer	As described in the Tender document.			
22. Brief Description of Goods or Works	Do			
23. Brief Description of Related Services	Do			
24. Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Price of the hard copy of Tender document is Taka 1000.00 (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable). Tender document can be viewed in the Website of DLR&S (www.dlrs.gov.bd). Money receipt of purchasing the Tender document must be submitted with the Tender.			
25. Package/ Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Taka)	Completion Time
GD-24	Procurement of Raw Materials and Spare Parts for the Map Printing Press of DLR&S(GD-24)	Department of Land Records & Surveys, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.	Tk.75000.00 (Taka Seventy five thousand) only	6(six) weeks from the date of issuing NOA.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Anower Hossain
27. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director and Director(Surveys)
28. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Department of Land Records and Surveys(1st Floor), Room No.219, 28 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
29. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel.: 8170480 Fax: 9122849 e-mail: ds.dlrs09@yahoo.com website: www.dlrs.gov.bd
30. Special Instructions	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

(Md. Anower Hossain)
 Project Director and Director (Surveys)