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STATEMENT ON MYANMAR COUP UNSC members unable to agree

Emergency meet ends without resolution as China, Russia seek more time

STAR REPORT

A top UN official urged the United Nations Security Council yesterday to "collectively send a clear signal in support of democracy in Myanmar" as the 15-member body in an emergency meeting considered a possible statement condemning Monday's coup.

"I strongly condemn the recent steps taken by the military and urge all of you to collectively send a clear signal in support of democracy in Myanmar," Swiss diplomat Schraner Burgener, the United Nations' envoy to Myanmar, told the council according to her prepared remarks, reports Reuters.

"Let us be clear, the recent outcome of the election was a landslide victory for the National League for Democracy (NLD)," she said. "The military's proposal to hold elections again should be discouraged."

She briefed the 15-member council on the latest developments at yesterday's meeting.

The call at the meeting comes a day after Myanmar army took control of Myanmar and detained de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi and a number of other politicians and declared a state of emergency, alleging fraud in the November elections.

The council was unable to agree on a statement about the country's
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Myanmar citizens hold up a picture of leader Aung San Suu Kyi after the military seized power in a coup in Myanmar, outside United Nations venue in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 41,000 register in seven days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 41,000 people have got registered online in seven days till yesterday afternoon for taking Covid vaccines as the countrywide inoculation campaign is set to start on February 7.

The online registration is gradually gaining momentum. Some 30,000 people got registered as of Monday afternoon, and the number jumped by more than 10,000 within 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, say officials.

Experts, however, say the number is low, given that the government has set a target of vaccinating 60 lakh people in the first month.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said there is no alternative to vaccination for eradicating the novel coronavirus from the country.

"Diseases like polio and plague were eradicated through vaccines. A handful of people, however, are spreading misconception about the vaccination campaign," the minister said at an event marking the "World NTD (neglected tropical diseases) Day".
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Army HQ condemns Al Jazeera report

Govt terms it 'false, politically motivated smear campaign'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh authorities have termed an Al Jazeera investigative report "false, defamatory and a politically motivated smear campaign" intended to disrupt the harmony among different government organs of the country and destabilise the secular democratic government of Bangladesh.

In a rejoinder yesterday, Bangladesh Army Headquarters said it condemns in the strongest possible words the "concocted and ill-intended report by a vested group in the news channel Al-Jazeera titled 'All the Prime Minister's Men' aired yesterday.

"This, in fact, is a sequel by the same vested group which has been attempting
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RHD helps officials stay off project sites

Its headquarters houses office for 6 projects located outside Dhaka, going against govt orders for officials to stay at sites

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Despite repeated government directives on project officials to stay at project sites, road authorities continue to allow its officials to carry out their works from the RHD headquarters in the capital.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) allocated office space for at least six projects located outside Dhaka at its newly-constructed headquarters in the capital's Tejgaon area, according to an official order in September last year.

The six projects in question are being implemented in Pirojpur, Brahmanbaria, Rangpur, Tangail, Narayanganj, and Gazipur. However, the office order that detailed space allocation of the building for different RHD wings and projects mentioned that spaces were allocated for its different wings and "Dhaka-based projects".

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the order.

While offices have been allocated for projects outside the capital, officials of at least two wings of RHD -- planning and maintenance and bridge maintenance -- complained that they did not get
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adequate spaces at the new building that is hampering their works.

The government constructed the 12-storey building with the funding of the Asian Development Bank after RHD has to leave its previous headquarters near the Supreme Court, following a court ruling in 2012.

Due to lack of space in the temporary headquarters at Tejgaon and with the new building under construction, offices of RHD's different wings were housed scattered at different parts of the capital.

As the construction works of the new building were almost done, the then chief engineer of RHD issued an official order on September 2 last year, allocating space for different wings and project offices. The shifting of project offices started recently.

Of the six projects located outside Dhaka, four were accommodated at Level-2 of the building. They are-3rd Shitalakhya Bridge Construction Project (Narayanganj); 8th Bangladesh China Friendship Bridge Project (Pirojpur); Ashuganj River Port-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Land Port Road Project (Brahmanbaria); Support to Joydebpur-
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Tigers return to Tests today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unlike the team that surrendered meekly in the three-match ODI series, the visiting West Indies side is expected to put up a better show in the longer format when they take on Bangladesh in the first Test from today.

The first of two Tests will start from 9:30am at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque and his troops will be making a
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Propaganda on against Bangladesh, says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country would move forward proving its enemies wrong despite the propaganda being carried out against it at home and abroad.

"Bangladesh is moving forward and it will continue doing so proving its enemies wrong. Propaganda is being carried out in different ways at home and abroad. I believe if we work with honesty, people will get the benefits of that work," she said. The premier was delivering her
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concluding address in the 11th session of the 11th parliament. It was also her address on the thanksgiving motion on the president's speech.

The 11th session of Jatiya Sangsad was prorogued yesterday after 12 sittings.

Talking about politics, Hasina said the BNP was suffering from a lack of leadership and people did not have any trust and confidence in the party as convicted and fugitive accused were at its helm.

She said the Awami League gained people's trust and confidence, which was
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Driver Rafiqul, left, has turned his car into a makeshift clothing outlet in the capital's Dilkusha commercial area. He runs the shop on every working day after dropping of his employer, a senior banker, at his office nearby. He makes a small profit from his daily sale of about Tk 500 to Tk 800. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

We want justice delivered quickly

Says father of pvt univ student who died on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The father of the female university student, who died on Sunday, wants justice and that too in the quickest possible time.

"We want justice in the quickest possible time. My whole family members are in trauma and I do not want to talk anymore," these are the few words the father muttered to The Daily Star over phone yesterday evening.
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Scrap seller turns 'liquor' maker

His toxic alcohol claimed 6 lives

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Jahangir Alam used to earn his living by selling scraps collected from street children in the capital's Chawkbazar.

Three months ago, however, the 45-year-old who did not even complete his school education was appointed the "chief chemist" of a factory manufacturing fake foreign liquor. Jahangir used to make fake vodka and whisky in a factory on the second floor of a small building in the capital's Bhatara.

At least six people have died in the capital after drinking the whisky and vodka made by Jahangir, according to police's detective branch (DB).

A team of DB (Gulshan Division) police said they learned this information when they conducted a drive in Jahangir's fake
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foreign liquor factory late Monday night.

According to sources, in the last month, at least 26 people have died consuming toxic liquor in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Bogura.

Of them, 10 people including university students have died in Dhaka alone, 13 others in Bogura.

Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Gulshan Division) of DB police, told The Daily Star yesterday that Jahangir used to work in the factory for a daily salary of Tk 500.

From the factory owned by Nasir Ahmed alias Rahul, 48, they used to deliver around 250 fake bottles of different brands of foreign liquor per week, he said.

During the drive on Monday, DB police arrested Nasir, Jahangir and four others
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