

Calls grow louder for UN

FROM PAGE 12

UN Special Rapporteur Thomas Andrews said there were “growing reports and photographic evidence” that security forces had used live ammunition against protesters since seizing power almost two weeks ago.

“Security Council resolutions dealing with similar situations have mandated sanctions, arms embargoes, and travel bans, and calling for judicial action at the International Criminal Court or ad hoc tribunals,” he told the Council. “All of these options should be on the table.”

The 47-member forum met at the request of Britain and the European Union to consider a resolution calling for the release of ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and for UN monitors to be allowed to visit.

300 MPS URGE UN TO PROBE RIGHTS ABUSES

The elected Myanmar parliamentarians called for UN investigations into the “gross human rights violations” that they said the military had committed since its coup, including arrests.

In a letter read out by Britain’s ambassador Julian Braithwaite, they said: “The military also shot people protesting, invaded the ruling party’s offices, confiscated documents, records, and property.”

They said a telecommunications bill being prepared by the junta was intended to restrict access to the Internet and mobile services.

US Chargé d’Affaires Mark Cassayre said: “We ask all Council members to join the United States and others to ... join us in promoting accountability for those responsible for the coup, including through targeted sanctions.”

But China and Russia - which have close ties to Myanmar’s military - said they opposed holding the session at all.

“What happened in Myanmar is essentially Myanmar’s internal affairs,” said Chen Xu, China’s ambassador.

Russian ambassador Gennady Gatilov said: “Attempts to whip up hype around the situation in Myanmar need to cease.”

VIOLENT CLASHES

Yesterday’s mostly peaceful protests were the biggest so far.

Three people were wounded when police fired rubber bullets to break up a crowd of tens of thousands in the southeastern city of Mawlamyine, a Myanmar Red Cross official told Reuters.

Footage broadcast by Radio Free Asia showed police charging at protesters, grabbing one and smashing him in the

head. Stones were then thrown at police before the shots were fired.

“Three got shot – one woman in the womb, one man on his cheek and one man on his arm,” said Myanmar Red Cross official Kyaw Myint, who witnessed the clash.

In the biggest city Yangon, hundreds of doctors in white duty coats and scrubs marched past the golden Shwedagon pagoda, the country’s holiest Buddhist site, while in another part of town, football fans wearing team kits marched with humorous placards denouncing the military.

Other demonstrations took place in Naypyitaw, the coastal town of Dawei, and in Myitkyina, the capital of northern Kachin state, where young men played rap music and staged a dance-off.

Social media giant Facebook said it would cut the visibility of content run by Myanmar’s military, saying they had “continued to spread misinformation” after seizing power.

US SANCTIONS

The protests came a day after US President Joe Biden announced imposing sanctions that would prevent the generals who engineered a coup in Myanmar on February 1 from gaining access to \$1 billion in funds their government keeps in the US.

He threatened additional sanctions, and demanded that the generals restore democracy and release Aung San Suu Kyi, the nation’s civilian leader, whose party won the national elections in November.

The military took power through coup, alleging massive vote fraudulence. The generals said they are taking control of the country for one year and promised to hand over power after elections. No date has yet been set for elections.

Meanwhile, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday said it is immediately redirecting \$42.2 million of assistance away from work that would have benefited Myanmar’s government after conducting a review of its programs following the coup in the country.

“Rather than supporting the military, we will redirect these funds to support and strengthen civil society,” the aid agency said in a statement, adding that it will continue to support the people of Myanmar with approximately \$69 million in bilateral programs.

The junta remitted the sentences of more than 23,000 prisoners yesterday, saying the move was consistent with “establishing a new democratic state with peace, development and discipline” and would “please the public”.



A Palestinian demonstrator returns a tear gas canister fired by Israeli troops during a protest against Israeli settlements, in Beit Dajan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Land lost, so is livelihood

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Protection Movement.

A FALSE CASE, FEAR OF REPRISAL

“In 2017, Arif Hossain, manager of the rubber company, filed a fabricated case against five of us, including Johon Tripura, headman of Daluchhari mouza, to harass us and grab our ancestral land,” said Rengyan Mro, karbari of Rengyan Mro Para.

Living in fear of also being evicted from their homes, these Mro families have not visited the police station or filed a case over grabbing of their land, said the community leaders.

Headman Johon Tripura said, “Members of law enforcement agencies help the land grabbers grab our ancestral land. Sometimes, these agency members call us to their offices and threaten us.

“When we protested, they filed a false case against us.”

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in charge of Lama Police Station, denied the allegation and said on Monday, “When the Mro people contacted us, we suggested they go to court to solve the problem.”

In 2017, an investigation was conducted by Sayed Iqbal, the then assistant commissioner (land) of Lama, into the plots the rubber company claims as theirs.

The Daily Star obtained the copy of his investigation report.

Signed in October 2017, it stated the Mro people of Daluchhari mouza had been using this jhum

land for generations and if the land was allotted for use as rubber plantation, the Mro indigenous people would be left with no means for their livelihood.

If the land is not taken over by Lama Rubber Industries, there is no danger of peace being disturbed in the area, the report also stated.

The Daily Star contacted Sayed Iqbal, now UNO of Alikadom upazila, for comment on Monday but he said as it was several years ago, he couldn’t recall the instance. When asked if he would like to look over the document in question and then comment, he declined.

Refuting all allegations, Lama Rubber Industries Limited Manager Arif Hossain said they did not grab any jhum land but Mro and Tripura people had illegally entered their rubber plot area instead.

“We didn’t threaten anyone,” he said.

Arif said Lama Rubber Industries has 375 acres of land in Sarai mouza and 1,225 acres of land in Daluchhari mouza.

In 1994, the company shareholders took out a lease on these plots for a rubber plantation for a period of 40 years from the district administration, he added.

However, one of the conditions of the lease agreement -- as noted in another investigation report by the kanungo (revenue clerk) of the Lama upazila land office in October 2017 -- is that the leaseholder must complete the project work within

five years of getting the allotment.

When asked about no cultivation on their leased land for at least 26 years, violating this condition of the lease agreement, Arif claimed, “We don’t know if there is any condition like this in the agreement.”

Tigers fail

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the visitors score a further 186 runs for their last five wickets. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took four, as did one pacer Abu Jayed, but they came at a cost of too many runs.

Nkrumah Bonner, Joshua De Silva and even bowler Alzarri Joseph filled their boots against a listless attack, taking the score past 400.

Greek parliament approves plan for police at univs

APP, Athens

The Greek parliament on Thursday approved a plan to create a special police force to patrol university campuses, despite sometimes strong opposition from students.

The functioning of Greek universities has been disrupted for decades by clashes and violence against staff, often blamed on youth organisations affiliated with leading political parties.

Dhaka in talks

FROM PAGE 12

ancient festival transcends borders and races. So, join us to welcome a joyful “niu” year.”

He added that this was the most important holiday in China and this year marks the year of the ox or cow.

“Mind you, when I say ‘new’, I actually mean ‘niu’, the Chinese word for ox or cow, which happens to have the same pronunciation as the English word new,” he said.

Ox or cow is generally perceived as an animal that’s hard working, tough and reliable, which are some very useful traits in a prolonged pandemic.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh launched a massive countrywide vaccination drive on Feb 7, for which the government procured five million doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd last month.

India also gifted two million doses of the vaccine.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last week ordered reducing the age limit from 55 years to 40 to get registered for vaccination to expand and accelerate the drive.

5 more die

FROM PAGE 12

Health Services.

“Five more Covid-19 patients died in the last 24 hours, increasing the death toll from the pandemic to 8,253,” the release said.

It said the tally of infections has surged to 5,39,975 as 404 new cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours.

A total of 14,328 samples were tested at 210 authorised laboratories across the country during the time.

Of the samples tested in the past 24 hours, 2.82 percent were positive, while 14.13 percent cases were detected from the total tests conducted so far, the release added.

Among the total infections, 90.08 percent patients have recovered, while 1.53 percent died so far since the first Covid-19 positive cases were reported in the country on March 8 last year.

Of the five deaths, four are male, the release said, adding two are in their 50s while three are above 60 years.

According to the division-wise data, four people died in Dhaka division and the rest are in other divisions.

Among the total 8,253 fatalities, 4,603 people died in Dhaka division, 1,515 in Chattogram division, 470 in Rajshahi division, 556 in Khulna division, 249 in Barishal division, 308 in Sylhet division, 359 in Rangpur division and 193 in Mymensingh division, according to the release.

Some 38,22,345 samples have so far been tested since the detection of the first Covid-19 cases in the country.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for developing audio-visual products to capture the impact of skills 21 project initiatives and voices of the beneficiaries through short documentaries & still pictures. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under Procurement Notices at https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS_367536/lang--en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, March 14, 2021, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Bangladesh is seeking Concept Papers from eligible local organizations to fund an activity titled Rights for Persons Living with Disability (PLWD) Activity. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number: 72038821RFA00006, Addendum # 8 to Locally Led Development (LLD), Annual Program Statement (APS) No.: 7200AA19APS00007. Please visit www.grants.gov for detailed information or send an email to mmhussain@usaid.gov, and amuyama@usaid.gov.

D-30

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Rupayan Trade Cente (12-13th floor), 114 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000

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Interested candidates are requested to apply related post with detail bio-data within 18 February 2021 to the following address. Copies of all academic & experience certificates, NID, three (03) copies of passport size recent photographs must be sent with the application.

Director
Human Resource Development
Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Bangladesh
Rupayan Trade Cente (12-13th floor),
114 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor
Dhaka-1000.

‘We’re dying’
Audio calls of migrants trapped in truck prompt US investigation

REUTERS, Washington

US authorities are investigating reports that about 80 migrants may have been trapped in a tanker truck on Monday and were struggling to breathe, an official with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said on Thursday.

The official said ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations unit was looking into 911 calls placed on Monday around San Antonio, Texas.

“We’re dying,” a male caller said in Spanish as he pleaded for help on one of the calls, according to recordings obtained by Reuters. Moans of others could be heard in the background.

The ICE investigative unit is seeking to learn if the incident may have been human trafficking, the official said.

“At face value, it’s at least human smuggling,” said

the official, who requested anonymity to discuss the matter.

The investigation comes as arrests of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border have been increasing after a steep drop at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. officials in January encountered nearly 78,000 migrants attempting to cross the southern border illegally or who were denied at ports of entry, a 6 percent increase over the previous month.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation field office in San Antonio and Bexar County Sheriff’s Office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

On one of the calls, a man said a white truck with approximately 80 people inside was stopped on the side of the highway, according to the recording.

“We don’t have oxygen,” the man said at one point.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় হাইবে

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যোগাযোগ: ০১৯৪৯ ১১১ ৯৯৯

College Name: Narsingdi Govt. College

Address: West Bramondi, Narsingdi
Website: www.ngc.gov.bd

Memo No. CEDP/2020-21/01 Date: 12/02/21

e-Tender Notice 01/2020-2021

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	547338	Repair & Renovation of Classroom	01-Mar-2021 13:00	01-Mar-2021 14:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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 **28-Feb-2021 16:00**.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. Md. Habibur Rahman Akand
Principal
College Name: Narsingdi Govt. College
Phone: 029462438
E-mail: principalingcollege@yahoo.com

GD-299

Chief Store & Purchase Officer

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka

Memo: 46.207.007.17.02.2021-415

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Method of Tender & Tender ID, Ref. No.	Procurement item descriptions	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing, opening date & time
1.	OTM Tender ID. 546147 Ref. 46.207.007.17.01.2020-162	Triple supply work for garbage trucks in the cleaning pool controlled/operated by the Department of Transport.	14 Feb 2021 09.00.00	28 Feb 2021 17.00.00	01 Mar 2021 14.00.00
2.	OTM Tender ID. 546150 Ref. 46.207.007.17.01.2020-149	Supply of various types of seats angle and flat bars for the Engineering Department Mechanical of Dhaka South City Corporation in the FY 2020-2021.	14 Feb 2021 09.00.00	28 Feb 2021 17.00.00	01 Mar 2021 14.00.00

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal.

Alimul Kabir
(Deputy Secretary)
Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department,
Dhaka South City Corporation
E-mail: csco@dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

DSCC/PRD/99/20-21
GD-298