

Calls grow louder for UN

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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

FROM PAGE 12

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 Alikadam 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.

Jubo League

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The mobile court found the information to be true and handed the punishment for threatening the mayor candidates and violating the electoral code of conduct, the members added.

In tomorrow’s municipal polls, BNP-nominated mayor candidate Shahjahan Kabir is running with “sheaf of paddy” symbol, and Khokon Mia from Islami Andolan with “hand fan”.

AL CANDIDATE CLEARED

Hassan Qadir, AL-nominated mayor runner in the district’s Alamdanga municipality polls slated for tomorrow, has been cleared of the charges involving threatening voters and a plan to rig votes.

Returning Officer and District Election Officer Tareq Ahmed confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday.

On Wednesday, Hassan was served a show-cause notice after Delwar Hossain, president of AL in the municipality, allegedly threatened to prevent anyone from voting for rival party candidates in the polls and planned to rig votes.

Hassan said he replied to the notice and that he was cleared based on the reply.

He said he informed the local election office that he would be careful so that such incidents were not repeated.

‘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.

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 Centre (12-13th floor),
114 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor
Dhaka-1000.

Vote for AL candidate

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symbol],” Nur Uddin Chowdhury Nayan, general secretary of Lakshimpur district AL, said while addressing an election rally in Ramgati on Wednesday.

He was campaigning for AL mayoral nominee Mejbah Uddin, also the incumbent mayor.

This newspaper has obtained the video clip of Nur’s speech.

The AL leader also said those who would not vote for “boat” would “realise the situation” the day after the polling.

Following the remarks of Nur, panic has spread among the other mayor candidates and voters.

Enquired about his comments, Nur last night denied that he asked voters to cast ballots in public.

He claimed that BNP-Jamaat men changed his statement by editing the video footage.

“BNP-Jamaat talk against holding elections using Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and run propaganda against its use,” he told The Daily Star.

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

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যোগাযোগ: ০১৯৪৯ ১১১ ৯৯৯

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