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COUP IN MYANMAR

Neighbours press for Suu Kyi's release

Several people hurt as police open fire to disperse protesters; journos arrested

AGENCIES

Myanmar's neighbours yesterday pressed its ruling military to release ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and cease what Singapore called the disastrous use of lethal force against opponents of their February 1 coup and work out a solution to the crisis.

The calls from fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) came as Myanmar police again opened fire to disperse crowds after weeks of demonstrations against military rule. Several people were wounded, witnesses said.

Asean foreign ministers held talks with a representative of the junta in a video call two days after the bloodiest day of unrest since the military overthrew Suu Kyi's elected government.

At least 21 people have been killed since the coup, which Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in an interview with the BBC was a "tragic" step back for Myanmar.

The foreign minister of Indonesia, which has been pushing a regional diplomatic effort, urged Myanmar to "open its doors" to the Asean bloc to resolve the escalating tension.

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A child, apparently afraid of looking ahead from a motorcycle at speed, is made to sit hugging her father. The child is not wearing a mask or a helmet. The photo was taken in the capital's Sabujbagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

NIKO GRAFT CASE

Khaleda Zia exempted from court appearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has exempted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from personal appearance in the Niko graft case.



Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge's Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order on February 16, following a petition submitted by Khaleda's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder.

The court yesterday began the hearing on charge-framing in the case filed against Khaleda and eight others, defence lawyer Zia Uddin told The Daily Star.

Defence lawyer Zaynal Abedin Meshbah represented Khaleda in the court in her absence.

During yesterday's hearing, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder cited

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Take legal action against 30 washing plants

HC asks DoE in ruling on Buriganga pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Department of Environment (DoE) to take appropriate legal action against 30 washing plants in Keraniganj for polluting the Buriganga.

The court also directed the DoE to submit a report before it within seven days after complying with the directive.

Meanwhile, the court issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for giving further gas and electricity connections to the companies polluting Buriganga despite its prohibition order.

The managing director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDCL) and chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB) were respondents to the rule and two weeks were given to them for an explanation.

The HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by the rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangabandhu rejects Yahya's roundtable invitation

MARCH 3, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

WITHDRAW FORCES AND TRANSFER POWER

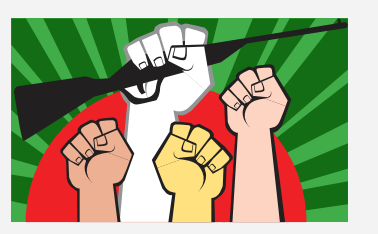
At a meeting organised at Paltan Maidan, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged the authorities to withdraw forces from the city and hand over power to the elected representatives of the people. He also called for launching a no-tax campaign.

Bangabandhu, in an apparent reference to West Pakistan leaders, said, "If you do not want to frame one constitution let us frame our own constitution and you frame your own. Then let us see if we can live together as brothers."

He appealed for communal peace and added the Biharis and non-Muslims "are our sacred trust".

Complete strikes were observed all through Bangladesh for the first time in response

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Libya arrests 'main suspect' in murder of Bangladeshis

AFP, Tripoli

One of the main suspects in the murder in Libya of 30 mostly Bangladeshi migrants last year was arrested on Monday, authorities in Tripoli said.

In May 2020, the family of a human trafficker killed by migrants for unknown reasons allegedly avenged his death by killing 26 Bangladeshis and four migrants of African origin.

The massacre took place in May in the city of Mezdah, more than 150 kilometres (just over 90 miles) south of Libya's capital. Eleven other migrants were wounded.

One of the alleged killers, 23, was arrested Monday in Gharyan, around 100 kilometres southwest of the capital, the unity government's interior ministry said in a statement.

Wanted by the authorities, "he confessed

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

Churchill's 'most important' painting sells for £7m

AFP, London



A painting of Marrakesh by Britain's famed wartime prime minister Winston Churchill, owned by Hollywood star Angelina Jolie, smashed expectations to sell for £7 million (\$9.75 million) at auction in London on Monday.

Churchill, a keen artist, took inspiration from the Moroccan artist and painted "The Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque" oil work during a World War II visit in 1943.

He gave the finished article to fellow wartime leader, US president Franklin Roosevelt.

Auction house Christie's called it "Churchill's most important work".

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ROHINGYA RELOCATION

Another 3,800 on way to Bhasan Char

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to relocate around 3,800 more Rohingyas to Bhasan Char by tomorrow from different refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

As part of the process, 1,073 Rohingyas left refugee camps in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya for the island yesterday.

Shamsud Douza Nayan, additional commissioner at the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commission, told this newspaper that a big group of Rohingyas will be taken to Bhasan Char today. Seeking anonymity, an official of Bhasan Char Ashrayan Project-3 said around 3,800 Rohingyas will reach the island by tomorrow from various camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

Yesterday, 21 buses carrying the 1,073 Rohingyas started for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8



The waste of multiple dyeing factories contaminating the water of the Buriganga river in the capital's Shyampur area. Garbage, top photo, is also dumped on the bank of the river considered the lifeline of the capital. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BILL GATES HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER

Read the review of Bill Gates's latest book, How To Avoid A Climate Disaster (Knopf, 2021) in tomorrow's issue of

BOOKS

For more book-related content, follow fb.com/DailyStarBooks and @DailyStarBooks on Twitter.

PRAYER TIMING MARCH 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB), BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

INVITATION FOR BID FOR PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF IMPORTED COAL AT PLANT JETTY (CDP) FOR 2X660MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT-BAGERHAT, KHULNA DIVISION, BANGLADESH (International Competitive Bidding)

IFB No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/COAL/2021/751 DATED: 03.03.2021

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for Procurement and Delivery of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP) for the aforementioned Project.

Bidding Document shall be available for sale and download from 04.03.2021 1000 Hrs. (BST) to 25.03.2021 1700 Hrs. (BST). Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on 30.03.2021 commencing at 1100 Hrs. (BST). Last date for submission of Bids shall be 22.04.2021 upto 1100 Hrs. (BST) and Technical Proposal shall be opened at 1130 Hrs. (BST) on 22.04.2021.

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Document, and other details, please refer to detailed Invitation for Bid available at www.bifpcl.com; www.bpdb.gov.bd; www.ntpc.co.in; and www.cptu.gov.bd or may contact the office of the undersigned.

Md. Mofijul Islam
Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL

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