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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.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



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

to the call of Bangabandhu. Spontaneous processions were brought out by general people. Several people were killed as the army opened fire on protesters. In Rangpur, as fights broke out between Pakistani army men and civilians, a 24-hour curfew was imposed from 2:30pm in the afternoon. A curfew was also imposed in Sylhet.

**YAHYA'S ROUNDTABLE INVITATION**

In the evening, there was a radio announcement proposing a roundtable conference of political leaders to be convened by President Yahya Khan in Dhaka on March 10, 1971. This was an effort to find a political

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 Mezzah, 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 city 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".

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## Singer Jane Alam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted singer Jane Alam passed away yesterday at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital around 10:00pm.

He was 65.

According to Zahirul Islam Sohel, owner of production house CD Choice, Alam was infected with Covid-19 and was under treatment at the hospital for a month.

He also had pneumonia.

As his condition deteriorated yesterday, he was put on life support after which he passed away.

Born in Manikganj's Harirampur, Jane Alam started singing soon after the Liberation War ended.

He gained popularity after his first album, "Bonmali".

The artiste, inspired by Azam Khan, went on to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

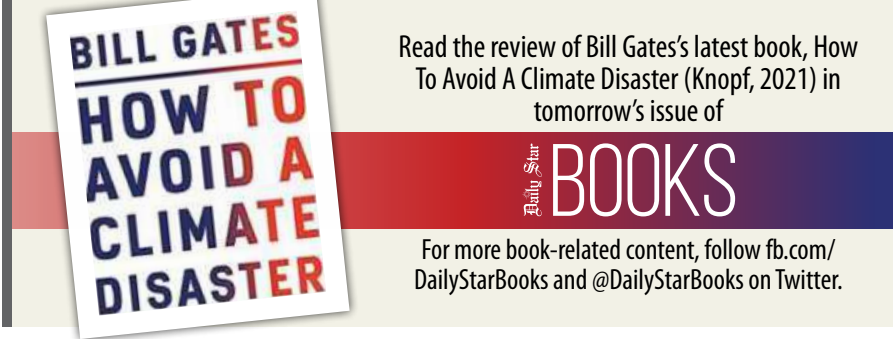




## MINDLESS POLLUTION

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

|             |       |      |         |      |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fajr        | 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](http://www.bifpcl.com); [www.bpdb.gov.bd](http://www.bpdb.gov.bd); [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in); and [www.cptu.gov.bd](http://www.cptu.gov.bd) or may contact the office of the undersigned.

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

Unique Heights (Borak), Level-17, 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000  
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