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ANTI-COUP PROTESTS IN MYANMAR Crackdown on, one more killed

Protests continue; UNSC set to meet on crisis

AFP, Yangon

A protester was shot dead in Myanmar yesterday in the latest round of bloodletting at anti-coup demonstrations, as the UN Security Council prepared to meet on the escalating crisis.

Despite an increasingly brutal crackdown by the military authorities that has seen more than 50 people killed, protesters took to the streets again in towns around the country to denounce the February 1 coup.

The violence has brought condemnation from around the world, with the UN rights chief demanding the junta "stop murdering and jailing protesters", and the Security Council is set to discuss the crisis later Friday.

But despite the mounting international pressure, the generals have shown no sign of heeding calls for restraint.

In Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, hundreds of engineers took to the streets crying "Free our leader" in reference to ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, detained by the military since the first night of the coup.

A 26-year-old man helping at barriers set up in the city to slow security forces died after being shot in the neck, medical officials told AFP.

The killing follows the deadliest day of the crackdown so far on Wednesday, when the UN said at least 38 people were killed as graphic images showed security forces firing into crowds and bloodied bodies dragged away.

In the southern city of Dawei police fired tear gas at demonstrators, while there was defiance despite the danger at protests in the commercial capital Yangon.

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In this still image taken from a video obtained by Reuters yesterday, demonstrators are seen behind makeshift barricades during a protest in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February 1 coup that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power, with soldiers and police escalating the use of force on the streets to quell nationwide protests.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Kaus Mia named best taxpayer of Mujib Borsho

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

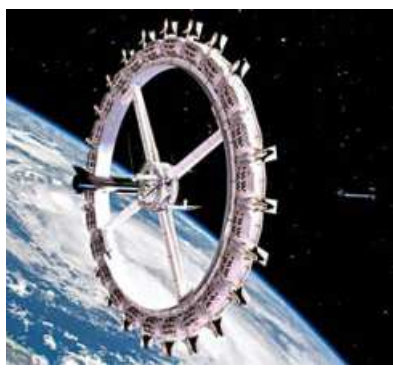
The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday honoured Kaus Mia as the best taxpayer of Mujib Year for his exemplary commitment to depositing the right amount of tax to the public coffers.

Kaus, a 90-year-old businessman from Old Dhaka, has been paying taxes since 1958.

He has been topping the list of highest taxpayers in the country since the tax authority introduced tax cards in fiscal 2010-11 in a bid to motivate people and create a culture of tax compliance in the country which still has one of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

World's first space hotel may open in 2027



CNN ONLINE

If you're daydreaming of future travels while stuck at home during the pandemic, why fantasise about the beaches of Bali or the canals of Venice when vacationing in space could be in your future?

Back in 2019, Californian company the Gateway Foundation released plans for a cruise ship-style hotel that could one day float above the Earth's atmosphere.

Then called the Von Braun Station, this futuristic concept -- comprised of 24 modules connected by elevator

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Covid-19 vaccine confidence grows

Shows 14-country survey; WHO scraps plan for interim report on Wuhan virus mission

AGENCIES

Confidence in Covid-19 vaccines is growing, with people's willingness to have the shots increasing as they are rolled out across the world and concerns about possible side effects are fading, a 14-country survey showed yesterday.

Co-led by Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and the polling firm YouGov, the survey found trust in Covid-19 vaccines had risen in nine out of 14 countries covered, including France, Japan and Singapore which had previously had low levels of confidence.

The latest update of the survey, which ran from February 8 to February 21, found that people in the UK are the most willing, with 77% saying they would take a vaccine designed to protect against Covid-19 if one was available that week.

This is up from 55% in November, shortly before the first Covid-19 vaccine - co-developed by Pfizer and BioNTech - gained regulatory approval for use in Britain.

People in France, Singapore and Japan remained among the least willing to have a Covid-19 vaccine, at 40%, 48% and 48%, respectively - but all three have seen confidence rising since November when only 25%, 36% and 39% of people were positive.

The survey also found that worries over vaccine side effects have faded in the majority of countries, with fewer than half (45%) of all respondents currently reporting concern.

Again, people in France, Singapore and Japan are currently most worried about side effects, with around 6 in 10 feeling concerned (56%, 59%, 61%), while the UK is the least concerned.

The latest survey involved more than 13,500 people in Australia, Britain,

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Covid cases rising again

635 test positive in a day, six die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 635 new covid-19 cases were reported in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, indicating the rising trend of Covid-19 patients in the country.

The number of coronavirus deaths was six during the time which took the tally of death to 8,441, according to the data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of coronavirus infected persons is 549,184 till yesterday since the beginning of the fatal virus on March 8, last year, according to the DGHS.

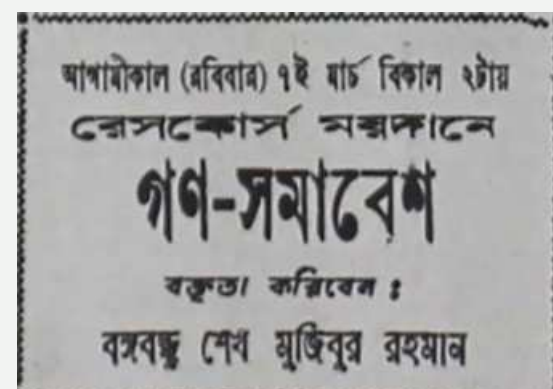
The number of coronavirus cases was 585 on March 1 while it was 619 on March 4.

Another 676 people recovered from Covid-19 through treatment at home and in hospital care in those 24 hours, bringing the tally of recoveries to 501,144.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya opts for tougher line



A newspaper advertisement of the March 7 meeting at Racecourse Maidan, published on the front page of The Daily Ittefaq on March 6, 1971.

MARCH 6, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

YAHYA'S RADIO SPEECH

Yahya Khan's speech was broadcast on Radio Pakistan on March 6, 1971. It was provocative and offensive. Yahya blamed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Awami League for the deteriorating situation in East Pakistan and attributed the non-cooperation movement to the act of a handful of people who were trying to "destroy the homeland of millions of innocent Pakistanis".

The threat underlying Yahya's speech was clear: "No matter what happens, as long as I am in command of the Pakistan armed forces and head of the state, I will ensure complete and absolute integrity of Pakistan... I will not allow a handful of people to destroy the homeland of millions of innocent Pakistanis. It is the duty of the Pakistan armed forces to ensure the integrity, solidarity and security of Pakistan, a duty in which they have never failed."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SHIPBREAKING YARD

Foreman killed as iron sheets fall on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A foreman died on the spot after a chunk of iron sheets fell on him at a shipbreaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Ripon Mia, 37, was from Mymensingh.

The incident happened at Tasin Steel Shipbreaking Yard, owned by Didraul Alam, lawmaker from Chatogram-4.

Shuvankar Dutta, inspector of the Directorate of Factory Inspection, Chattogram, said they were looking into the matter and that they would inspect the yard today.

Contacted, the lawmaker confirmed the matter and said the worker died while on duty at the yard.



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 6

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



Workers loading cement blocks onto a trawler on the Kirtonkhola river at Barishal Sadar upazila's Charbaria area yesterday. As part of an initiative of the Water Development Board, such cement blocks are placed on the banks of the river to prevent erosion.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

3 'Huji men' held in raid in capital

STAR REPORT

Police arrested three members of the banned militant group Harkatul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) including its operations branch head during a raid at Sayedabad in the capital.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted the raid around 5:15pm on Thursday, according to a DMP press release issued yesterday.

The arrestees are Huji Operations Head Mohammad Mainul Islam alias Mahin alias Mithun alias Hasan, Sheikh Sohan Swad alias Boro Abdullah and Murad Hossain Kabir.

One private car, five mobile phones, one microphone, one sharp weapon, two daggers, 10 detonators, 160 bearing iron balls, one scotch tape, five litres of acid, three ID cards, and a book were seized from them.

During primary interrogation, they said they were active members of Huji, said the press release.

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