



ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

12 killed in Myanmar

Civilian vice-president vows resistance to junta: US, allies vow to restore democracy

REUTERS

Myanmar security forces killed at least 12 people, witnesses and media reported, as the acting leader of a civilian parallel government yesterday vowed in a first public address to pursue a “revolution” to overturn the Feb 1 military coup.

Five people were shot dead and several injured when police opened fire on a sit-in protest in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second-biggest city, witnesses told Reuters.

Another person was killed in the central town of Pyay and two died in police firing in the commercial capital Yangon, where three were also killed overnight, domestic media reported.

“They are acting like they are in a war zone, with unarmed people,” said Mandalay-based activist Myat Thu. He said the dead included a 13-year-old child.

Si Thu Tun, another protester, said he saw two people shot, including a Buddhist monk. “One of them was hit in the pubic bone, another was shot to death terribly,” he said.

In Pyay, a witness said security forces initially stopped an ambulance from reaching those who were injured, leading to one death.

A truck driver in Chauk, a town in the central Magwe Region, also died after being shot in the chest by police, a

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Eight of the 40 fast broad-gauge locomotives that Bangladesh Railway (BR) purchased from a company of the United States arrive in Chattogram. The locomotives have been given temporary metre-gauge undercarriages so that they could be taken to Dhaka’s Tongi Railway Station. From there, they will be sent to Parbatipur locomotive factory.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

PAPUL’S VACANT SEAT

AL nominates Nuruddin

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League yesterday nominated Nuruddin Chowdhury Nayan, the party’s Laxmipur district unit general secretary, to contest the Laxmipur-2 by-election.

The ruling party picked the candidate at a meeting of its Local Government Nomination Board at the Gono Bhaban, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL president, in the chair.

The parliamentary seat (Laxmipur-2) was declared vacant after independent lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam alias Kazi Papul was sentenced by a Kuwaiti court for a criminal offense.

The by-polls to Laxmipur-2 will be held on April 11.

The Parliament Secretariat on Monday issued a gazette notification declaring that the seat fell vacant on January 28.

According to the gazette, Papul is ineligible to remain an MP as he was sentenced by a Kuwaiti criminal court to four-year rigorous imprisonment on January 28.

Papul, now behind bars in Kuwait, was arrested in the Gulf country in June last year on charges of human trafficking, trading of residency visa and money laundering.

He was convicted by the Kuwaiti court in a bribery case.

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bhutto suggests power share



Bangabandhu is seen with NAP Chief Wali Khan. The latter called on him on March 14, 1971.

MARCH 14, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BHUTTO’S DEMAND FOR TRANSFER OF POWER Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, chairman of the Pakistan People’s Party, said today at a public meeting in Karachi that if power was to be transferred to the people before any constitutional settlement, as demanded by Bangabandhu, it should be transferred to the Awami League in the East and

the PPP in the West. He was quoted as saying “Idhar hum, Udhar tum’ (we here, you there).

He added that the rule of the majority for the whole country would become applicable only if the Six-Point demand was dropped. Since that is not being done, the rationale and logic of this Six-Point demand necessitates agreement of the majority parties of both the

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Kishore in post-op after ear surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Formerly incarcerated cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore went through surgery in his ear yesterday for the wound in his right ear that resulted from the torture he underwent during detention.

His brother Ahsan Kabir informed The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that Kishore was recovering in post-operative.

The surgery was conducted at a city hospital where a procedure called myringoplasty was used to repair the perforations in his eardrum.

“A machine has been set in his ear through the surgery. The next course of action will be decided as per the physicians,” Ahsan Kabir said.

The surgery was conducted as Kishore’s diabetes is now somewhat under control, he said.

Kishore was taken to the operation theatre around

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Sea slugs lose bodies to rid parasites



REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese researchers have shown that a type of sea slug are able to self-decapitate and regrow their bodies, a discovery that could have ramifications for regenerative medicine.

The mechanism is believed to be an extreme method for the organism to rid itself of parasites, researchers Sayaka Mitoh and Yoichi Yusa wrote in a study published in Current Biology this week. The green slugs have algae cells in their skin, so they can feed off light like a plant until they develop a new body, which takes about 20 days.

Mitoh, a doctoral researcher at Nara Women’s University, noticed one day that a sea slug, known as a sacoglossan, had spontaneously detached its

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BRUR VC ‘absent’ on campus

Some teachers unveil ‘white paper’ accusing him of indulging in corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

After joining as the vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur three years and eight months ago, Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah went to the campus on only 237 days, a section of the university teachers claimed.

He never stayed on the campus an entire day. Sometimes, he would stay for a couple of hours, they said in a 790-page “white paper”.

Unveiling the paper at a press conference on the campus yesterday, teachers’ body Odhikar Surokkha Parishad said the VC holds the post of chief of the sociology department and the post of dean in social science faculty, which is highly unusual.

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ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

India to review side effects

Reports no report of blood clots

AFP, New Delhi

India will carry out a deeper review of post-vaccination side effects from the AstraZeneca shot next week after no cases of blood clots have been reported so far, an official told AFP yesterday.

New Delhi decided to conduct the review after several countries suspended rollout over blood clot fears even as the World Health Organization said there was no reason to stop using AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 jab.

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 14

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30
JAMAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Rickshaw-vans block a footpath adjacent to Phulbaria road behind the office of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) forcing pedestrians to squeeze between parked buses on the street and the pavement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHAOS IN COMPANIGANJ

Businesses hit hard

Traders said they are incurring losses in crores due to the volatile situation

MUNTAKIM SAAD and ANWARUL HAIDER, from COMPANIGANJ

In most restaurants of Companiganj’s Basurhat, an instruction is clearly written on the walls: “Conversations over politics are strictly prohibited.”

But what seems is that politics controls everything in Basurhat, the municipality which drew attention of the whole country after recent activities of Abdul Quader Mirza, younger brother of ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, and consequent clashes between two factions of ruling AL that left two people dead.

Two people, including a local journalist, were shot dead during clashes over establishing dominance in the area. One group was led by Basurhat municipality Mayor Quader Mirza and another by Mizanur Rahman Badal, organising secretary of Companiganj upazila AL.

Locals said they have never seen so much use of firearms before in Basurhat.

The worst sufferer is the businesses there. Political clashes, mayoral election, use of firearms, killings, hartal, and section 144 -- all took a heavy toll on businesses. The traders said they have incurred losses in crores of taka in the volatile political situation in Noakhali’s Companiganj over the last two months.

The Daily Star came to know that after visiting and talking to at least 30 traders in Basurhat Bazar, the main

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