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SHAH CEMENT

Myanmar troops fire at funeral

Generals celebrate amid global fury over Saturday's massacre

AGENCIES

Myanmar security forces opened fire yesterday, witnesses said, at people gathered for the funeral of one of the 114 people killed the previous day, the bloodiest day of protests since the military coup on February 1.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the firing on the funeral in the town of Bago, near the commercial capital Yangon, according to three people who spoke to Reuters.

"While we are singing the revolution song for him, security forces just arrived and shot at us," said a woman called Aye, who was at the service for Thae Maung Maung, a 20-year-old student who was shot on Saturday. "People, including us, run away as they opened fire."

Coup leader Min Aung Hlaing and his generals still threw a lavish party on Saturday night for Armed Forces Day, drawing an angry response from some on social media.

A number of Twitter posts placed pictures of the party alongside images of victims.

Three people were killed in firing on protests yesterday in separate incidents elsewhere, witnesses and news reports said. One person was killed when troops opened fire overnight on a group of protesters near the capital Naypyitaw, Myanmar Now news reported.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



People celebrating Dol Purnima, a major festival of the Hindu community, in Barishal city's Shitalakhola area yesterday. Abir Khela, which throwing of abir (a kind of perfumed and coloured powder) on each other, is a significant part of the festival. The occasion signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the end of winter.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Mobile 3G, 4G services shut down at places

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On top of being unable to communicate via Facebook and its Messenger app for over three days, people in certain areas in the country are not even getting decent internet from mobile carriers.

There were reports of temporary shutdown of 3G and 4G internet services in some areas near Baitul Mukarram and Motijheel in the capital, Hathazari and Chattogram city since Friday. Later on, the services were shut down in Cumilla, Shaikhupura of Jhenidah, Khulna, Jashore, Beanpole and some other districts to prevent incitement of violence.

Thousands of subscribers of the carriers have been calling customer support with complaints of service disruptions.

The carriers assured them of working to solve the problem without mentioning what the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Govt officer found murdered in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Tangail District Cultural Officer Redwana Islam was found murdered inside a hospital cabin on Saturday.

Police suspected that the victim's husband strangled her in the hospital in Mirzapur upazila.

Redwana, 34, daughter of Khandakar Rafiqul Islam, is from Rangpur Sadar upazila.

The victim's younger brother Arshadul Abid yesterday filed a murder case with Mirzapur Police Station against his sister's husband Delwar Hossain Mizan, a bank officer in Bhola, who went into hiding after the incident. Gias Uddin, inspector (investigation) of the police station, told The Daily Star.

Police recovered her body from a locked cabin of Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapur on Saturday night and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy, he said.

Quoting hospital authorities and relatives, Rizaul Haque Dipu, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said Redwana was hospitalised with labour



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangabandhu taken to Karachi

MARCH 29, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU FLOWN TO KARACHI

In the evening, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was flown via helicopter from the cantonment, where he was detained, to the Tejgaon Airport. Afterwards, he was flown to Karachi by a special military aircraft.

Siddiq Salik, then public relations officer in the Pakistan army at Dhaka, writes in his memoirs, "When complications arose about the final disposal of Mujib (such as international pressure for his release), I asked my friend Major Bilal why he had not finished him off in the heat of the action. He said, General Mitha had personally ordered me to capture him alive."

NIXON-KISSINGER CONVERSATION
Today, US President Richard Nixon had a telephonic conversation with his Assistant for National Security Affairs



Henry Kissinger on the situation in Bangladesh. Kissinger informed the president that Yahya Khan had apparently got control of Bangladesh. Nixon commented, "Good. There're sometimes the use of power is..."

Kissinger agreed with him saying that the use of power against seeming odds pays off. "...all the experts were saying that 30,000 people can't get control of 75 million. Well, this may still turn out to be true but as of this moment it seems to be quiet," added Kissinger.

Nixon replied, "When you look over the history of nations 30,000 well-disciplined people can take 75 million any time. Look what the Spanish did when they came in and took the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROHINGYAS GET NID 3 Cox's Bazar councillors held for helping them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) arrested three councillors -- former and incumbent -- along with a Cox's Bazar municipality office assistant, yesterday for allegedly assisting some Rohingyas to get enrolled in the voter list through forgery.

Mahbub Alam and Sharif Uddin, deputy director and deputy assistant director from the ACC Chattogram integrated office-02, led the drive and arrested the four.

Incumbent councillor of ward-2 of Cox's Bazar municipality Mizanur Rahman, former councillors -- Javed Kaisar Novel and Rafikul Islam -- and office assistant Mohammad Didar were arrested from their respective homes.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Jupiter's winds are faster than a bullet



MAIL ONLINE

Jupiter's winds reach up to 900 miles per hour - three times as fast as those measured during the strongest tornadoes on Earth, a study has found.

Astronomers from the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux tracked molecules left behind by comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 which slammed into Jupiter in 1994.

They discovered that some of the 900mph winds are so powerful they develop storms wider than the Earth and reach up to 560 miles tall.

In comparison, the most powerful winds on Earth reach only about 250 miles per hour and cover an area of up to three miles, causing devastating damage in their wake.

Jupiter is famous for its distinctive red and white

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

THE BUSINESS

WB doubles Bangladesh's GDP growth forecast

The World Bank has more than doubled its gross domestic product (GDP) growth prediction for Bangladesh for the current fiscal year as the economy shows signs of recovery. The Washington-based lender expects the economy to grow 3.6 percent in the FY2020-21, up from a projection of 1.6 percent made in the Global Economic Prospects Update in January.

"The economy is expected to recover gradually, with real GDP growth projected at 3.6 percent in FY21," the WB said in a document.

The new GDP growth prediction is still far lower than the government's estimate of 7.4 percent for the current fiscal year.

STORY ON B1

SC stays Erfan Salim's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for four weeks a High Court verdict that granted bail to Erfan Salim, son of Dhaka-7 lawmaker Haji Md Salim, in a case filed over attacking a navy officer in October last year.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the stay order following a petition filed by the state challenging the HC judgement.

The SC chamber judge asked the state to move a regular leave to appeal petition before its full bench in four weeks against the HC verdict.

Erfan Salim's lawyer Sayed Ahmed Raza told The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 29

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-45 6-20 7-45
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 5-00 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Scaffoldings have been set up under the First Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, also known as Postogola Bridge, for its repairs. The bridge was damaged by a BIWTA salvage ship that did not lower its crane while going under it in June last year. This photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

India records over 300 daily deaths

Covid cases at 163-day high; night curfew imposed in Maharashtra

AGENCIES

India saw 62,714 new coronavirus infections in a day, the highest single day rise so far this year, taking the nationwide Covid-19 tally to 1,19,71,624, while the daily deaths crossed the 300-mark for the first time in 2021.

Registering a steady increase for the 18th day in row, active cases have increased to 4,86,310 comprising 4.06% of the total infections. The recovery rate has further dropped to 94.58%, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated yesterday.

The 62,714 new cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, the highest in 163 days, while the death toll increased to 1,61,552 with 312 daily new fatalities, the highest in around three months, the data showed.

Maharashtra recorded over 35,000 fresh cases for the third day in a row although the count was slightly lower than Friday's record surge of 36,902.

Authorities in the state imposed night curfews yesterday to tackle a record surge in cases with the financial capital Mumbai reporting 6,123 new cases, the highest single-day spike since March last year.

"We are seeing a higher Covid positive rate in high-rise residential buildings than in slums...to stop the spread only essential services will be allowed," said Kishor Pednekar, the mayor of Mumbai adding that hotels, pubs and shopping malls must observe the night curfew rules.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1