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## '80 shot dead' near Yangon

Myanmar's UN envoy urges no-fly zone, sanctions against junta

AFP, Yangon

Reports emerged yesterday of more than 80 killed in the latest bloodletting by Myanmar's military, as the country's own ambassador to the United Nations called for "strong action" against the junta.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in February, with protesters refusing to submit to the junta and demanding a return to democracy.

After over two months of military rule, efforts to verify deaths and confirm news of crackdowns have been greatly curtailed by the junta's throttling of mobile data within the country -- shunting most of the population into an information blackout.

Details of a brutal crackdown in the city of Bago, 65 kilometres (40 miles) northeast of Yangon took a full day to emerge, as residents told AFP of continued violence from the junta which pushed them to flee to nearby villages.

By yesterday evening, the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners -- a local monitoring group tracking deaths -- confirmed "over 80 anti-coup protesters were killed by security forces in Bago on Friday".

AFP-verified footage shot early Friday showed protesters hiding behind sandbag barricades wielding homemade rifles, as explosions could be heard in the background.

Authorities had refused to let rescue workers near the bodies, said a resident. "They piled up all the dead bodies, loaded them into their army truck and drove it away," he told AFP.

State-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Saturday

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Entrepreneur Rayhan, 32, sun-drying paper-made ludo boards on Noyabazar playground in the capital. He sells each board for Tk 25 to different wholesale markets while producing those for Tk 15-17. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Journo Hasan Shahriar passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent journalist Hasan Shahriar, former president of Jatiya Press Club, breathed his last at the ICU of Impulse Hospital in the capital around 11:45am yesterday.

Hasan, a confirmed bachelor, was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with 80 percent damaged lungs and severe breathing complications, said Mainul Alam, joint secretary of Jatiya Press Club.

Mainul also said that Hasan had Covid-19 symptoms and was tested for the deadly virus around a week ago, but his test report came out to be negative, reported UNB.

Hasan retired from the editor post of Bangla daily the Ittefaq in 2008. He was the first editor of English daily the Daily Sun and chief editor of Chattogram-based daily People's View.

He also worked as Bangladesh correspondent for international magazine Newsweek, Khaleej Times; India's Daily Deccan Herald, The Indian Express, and The Asian Age; and Pakistan's Morning News, Dawn, and Evening Star.

Hasan was the first journalist from Asia-Pacific to be elected as president of the Toronto-based Commonwealth Journalists Association in 2003. He was also the president of CJA for two terms and the international president emeritus of the CJA in 2012.

He was awarded the prestigious Harry

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## POLLS IN WEST BENGAL 5 killed as violence mars 4th phase

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In the first major outbreak of violence in West Bengal assembly elections, five persons were killed yesterday in Cooch Behar district during the fourth phase of polling when an estimated 76.16 percent of voters exercised their franchise.

Four persons were killed when the armed federal Industrial Security Force personnel opened fire on being attacked by locals at a booth in Sitalkuchi area, police said.

According to the police, the CISF personnel opened fire after locals attempted to "snatch their rifles."

"A scuffle (between locals and CISF personnel) took place and the locals gheraoed (encircled) them and attempted to snatch their rifles, following which the central forces opened fire," a senior police official said.

Polling was stopped at the booth soon after the firing incident, EC sources said.

In a separate incident, an 18-year-old first-time voter was shot dead by unidentified persons outside a polling booth in Cooch Behar district, police said.

The deceased voter has been identified

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Tajuddin seeks arms support

APRIL 11, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### TAJUDDIN'S RADIO SPEECH

The Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro today broadcast a speech by the prime minister of the newly formed government-in-exile Tajuddin Ahmad. On behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government, Tajuddin expressed his deep respect to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the resistance against the Pakistan army. He also thanked the Bangladeshi people for the unstinted support to the cause of Bangladesh's liberation struggle. He appealed to the Bangalees all over the world to come forward to the assistance of the liberation fighters of Bangladesh.

Tajuddin declared that the headquarters of the Independent Bangladesh Government had been established in the free zone of the south-west part of Bangladesh. He provided a list of the commanders who were entrusted with the task of conducting resistance war in various parts of the country.

In his speech, the Bangladesh PM sought unconditional support from the friendly countries of the world in the form of arms. "We are seeking this support as an independent state. We want this support to resist the military junta."

#### THE BATTLE OF KALURGHAT BRIDGE

Liberation fighters put a brave fight today to defend the strategically important Kalurghat Bridge on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road. Shamsher M Chowdhury, BB, then a lieutenant in the army, fought valiantly in the battle. He shares his memory in the following words: We were positioned at the north end of the Kalurghat bridge with about a section of my soldiers.

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## 2 held for raping a boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday arrested three people on charge of sodomising a minor boy in Chatkhil municipality area of Noakhali.

The arrestees are Rabbi, 19, and Sumon, 26, of Noor Kha village in Chandraganj upazila of Laxmipur, and Didar Hossain, 28, a resident of Charmutua union in Noakhali Sadar upazila.

Police said the victim and the three accused used work at the same fruit shop. The trio allegedly sodomised the boy multiple times in the last couple of months, they said.

Around 7:00am on Friday, the trio committed the crime again. As the victim started screaming, the three fled the scene, said police.

Later, the boy's father filed a case against the three youths, who were arrested yesterday noon, said Anwarul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chatkhil

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## Second whale carcass washes ashore

Experts think large ships might have fatally injured them



MOSTAFA YOUSUF, MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

A second whale carcass washed ashore at Himchhari beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday, a day after the first one.

Researchers and experts suggest that large ships plying the sea route beyond Bangladesh's exclusive economic zone might have caused injuries to the marine mammals resulting in their death.

The female whale's carcass, which washed ashore yesterday, had a six feet-deep injury to its back, said Dr Shafiqur Rahman, chief scientific officer of

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### PRAYER TIMING APRIL 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-45 6-24 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Seven killed after quake hits Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

At least seven people were killed after a 6.0 magnitude quake struck off the coast of Indonesia's main Java island yesterday, as the country reels from a cyclone disaster in another part of the archipelago.

The afternoon quake hit offshore about 45 kilometres southwest of Malang city in East Java, damaging hundreds of homes as well as schools, government offices and mosques across the region.

"Our latest data shows that seven people died, two are seriously injured and 10 others sustained minor injuries," said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Raditya Jati.

Several communities had been evacuated, he added.

The quake struck at a relatively deep 82 kilometres (50 miles) -- shallower quakes tend to do more damage than deep ones.

Images from the scene showed a ceiling caved in at

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People using three wheelers on the highways for travelling long distances as the government now restricts heavy passenger vehicles on highways during the "lockdown" that has been imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. The photo was taken in Dhaka's Aminbazar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## COVID-19 IN INDIA Daily cases keep breaking records

145,384 infections reported in last 24 hours; Maharashtra enters strict weekend lockdown

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's daily coronavirus cases yesterday rose by a record for the fifth time this week and deaths surged to the highest in more than five months, with hospitals and crematoriums overflowing in parts of the country.

New cases in the world's second-most populous country have totalled the most of anywhere in the world over the last two weeks. India's overall tally of 13.21 million is the third-highest globally, just shy of Brazil and below the worst affected country, the United States.

After a lockdown a year ago caused widespread misery and one of the sharpest downturns of any major economy, the central government is desperate to avoid a hugely unpopular second shutdown.

But many states are tightening the screw, in particular Maharashtra and its capital Mumbai, where restaurants are shut and public gatherings of more than five people are banned.

Every weekend until the end of April the state's 125 million people are confined to their homes unless shopping for food, medicine or travelling.

Mega cities such as Mumbai, the country's financial centre and Maharashtra's capital, and the national capital of New Delhi have also imposed nightly curfews until the end of April.

India reported 145,384 new Covid-19 cases and 794 deaths, the Health Ministry reported. The country breached

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