

Asean to press junta to end violence, allow aid

China hopes summit may pave way for 'soft landing'

REUTERS

Southeast Asian leaders will try to persuade Myanmar's junta to end violence and let in aid at a summit today, diplomats said, in the first concerted international effort to ease the crisis in the country.

Leaders will meet behind closed doors at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, in the hope of encouraging candid discussions, two diplomatic sources told Reuters.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's junta chief who ousted the civilian government on Feb. 1, is likely to attend, officials and diplomats in the host nation have said.

The Southeast Asian country has been in crisis since the February coup, with almost daily protests and a crackdown by the junta in which hundreds of people have been killed.

Initiatives being considered by Asean include a pause in violence to allow medical and food supplies into Myanmar, and the appointment of a special envoy to encourage dialogue between the military regime and its opponents in the rival National Unity Government (NUG), the sources said.

No nations outside of Asean will be



present at the talks, although some of the participating nations and the UN special envoy on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, will hold meetings on the sidelines of the event, they added.

A spokesman for the NUG, formed by ousted lawmakers and some ethnic groups opposed to the junta, told Reuters the group had "been in contact with Asean leaders", but had not been officially invited to the summit.

Asean's members include Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. All leaders of the block, except the Philippines president, will attend the meet.

The junta has called the NUG an unlawful organisation.

Ahead of the meeting, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said on Thursday that China hoped the upcoming summit would pave the way for a "soft landing".

"The Chinese side expects the meeting to lead to a good start towards helping realise a 'soft landing' for the Myanmar situation," said Wang, China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister.

He was speaking with Thailand and Brunei's foreign ministers, the current and incoming Asean chairs, respectively.



A non-governmental organisation volunteer wearing a protective gear urges people in a market to wear facemasks as part of an awareness drive against the spread of coronavirus in Siliguri, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 120 wounded in east Jerusalem clashes

Over 100 Palestinians and 20 Israeli police were wounded in overnight clashes in annexed east Jerusalem, authorities said yesterday, as tensions mount over a ban on gatherings and videos of attacks on youths. The violence flared outside one of the entrances to the walled Old City, after police had barred access to some areas where Palestinians usually gather in large numbers during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. Tensions were fuelled by the arrival of far-right Jews at the end of a march during which they harassed Palestinians and chanted "death to Arabs". Tensions have been high in Jerusalem after a series of videos posted online in recent days showing young Arabs attacking ultra-Orthodox Jews and Jewish extremists taking to the street to bully Arabs in nightly confrontations.

Norway offers mRNA vaccine as second dose to AZ receivers

Norway will offer those who have received a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19 to take an injection from an mRNA vaccine as their second dose, the health ministry said yesterday. Norway on March 11 suspended the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine after a small number of younger people were hospitalised for a combination of blood clots, bleeding and a low count of platelets, some of whom later died. It is now awaiting a report from a government-appointed commission due on May 10 on whether to resume its rollout. The country, in the meantime, has offered second doses from the vaccines developed by Pfizer and BioNTech and Moderna to those who received the AstraZeneca shot as first dose. Norway becomes the latest country to mix vaccines, together with Denmark, Finland, France and Germany.

Navalny to end hunger strike

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny yesterday said he was ending a 24-day hunger strike he launched to demand medical treatment behind bars, after allies said his life was in danger. The announcement came after Navalny's personal doctors said Thursday that he had received treatment at a civilian hospital and urged him to put a stop to his protest. Navalny's protest in prison had raised the stakes in a standoff between President Vladimir Putin and Western leaders, who said Russia would face repercussions if the Kremlin's most outspoken opponent died in detention. Navalny was thrown behind bars in February for more than two years on old embezzlement charges, just weeks after he returned to Moscow from Germany where he had been recuperating from a poisoning attack that nearly left him dead. He blames Russian authorities for the attack with nerve agent Novichok -- a claim the Kremlin has repeatedly denied.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

No progress yet in trial

FROM PAGE 12
The Criminal Investigation Department of police on May 24, 2015 pressed charges against Sohail Rana and 41 others in the murder case.

On July 18, 2016, the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the 41 accused, including Sohail Rana, also a former Jubo League leader in Savar, in the case. After the indictment, the court ordered the complainant and several other prosecution witnesses to appear before it to make their depositions, said Additional Public Prosecutor Md Mizanur Rahman.

Soon after the charge framing, eight of the accused, including then Savar municipality mayor Refayet Ullah and councillor Mohammad Ali Khan, moved the High Court to secure stay order on the trial proceedings, the APP told The Daily Star.

As a result, the trial court could not record their statements, he added.

Mizanur said the HC later vacated the stay orders issued against the petitions of six accused after the public prosecutor wrote to the then attorney general to take steps to vacate the stay orders.

The HC, however, extended stay orders in favour of Refayet and Mohammad Ali, and the orders remain in force till now, the state lawyer said. Of the 41 accused, only Sohail Rana is now behind bars, while 31 are on bail. Three of the accused have died in the meantime and the rest are still on the run.

On August 29 of 2017, Sohail Rana was

At least 130 migrants feared drowned in Mediterranean

REUTERS, Milan

A search in the Mediterranean Sea for boats packed with migrants has found ten bodies floating near a capsized rubber boat that was believed to have been carrying 130 people, the French humanitarian organisation SOS Mediterranee said.

Another wooden boat was still missing with about 40 migrants aboard, a spokesman for SOS Mediterranee said yesterday.

The civil hotline Alarm Phone had reported three boats were in distress on Wednesday, prompting SOS Mediterranee to launch a search "in very rough seas, with up to 6-metre waves", the non-government organisation said in a news release issued earlier.

Three merchant vessels helped the charity's own rescue ship Ocean Viking search for the boats in international waters, northeast of the Libyan city of Tripoli.

SOS Mediterranee said merchant ship MY ROSE found three bodies in the water and an airplane of EU border agency Frontex spotted the rubber boat soon after.

When Ocean Viking arrived on the scene it did not find any survivors but there were ten bodies in the water nearby. The statement issued on Twitter carried



a photograph of a capsized black rubber boat.

A spokesman for the NGO said he had no information on the third boat that Alarm Phone had said was in distress.

Conflict-ridden Libya is a major route for migrants seeking to reach Europe. The French NGO said more than 350 people have died this year in the Central Mediterranean making the perilous voyage.

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a report at the end of March that last year more than 2,200 people perished at sea.

The true toll is probably far higher as aid groups reported at least five "invisible shipwrecks" that were never confirmed as they left no survivors.



A child walks toward a promotional booth set up outside a shopping mall on World Book Day in Beijing, China yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

DRAWDOWN OF RUSSIAN TROOPS Ukraine cautiously welcomes move

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday began withdrawing its armed forces that had been on manoeuvres near the borders of Ukraine following weeks of heightened tensions between Moscow and the West over the troop build-up.

Kiev's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba greeted the move with cautious optimism, saying the drawdown would help to ease tensions.

But he warned that "this step in and of itself does not halt the escalation or the conflict as a whole".

"Ukraine calls on its partners to remain vigilant for now, to continue to monitor the situation closely and to take effective measures to contain Russia," he said in a statement. The deployment, which came amid an increase in fighting between Kiev's forces and pro-Russian eastern separatists since the start of the year, raised deep concerns in Ukraine and drew warnings to Moscow from Western allies.

Moscow said Thursday that tens of thousands of troops deployed to southern and western Russia for exercises in recent weeks would be returning to their bases.

A Nato official said Thursday that any "de-escalation by Russia" is important, while the United States had said it was "looking for action" on the troop withdrawal.

The Kremlin yesterday dismissed concerns over the exercises and said Russia was ready to improve ties with Western leaders, so long as the intention was mutual.

MISSING INDONESIA SUBMARINE Frantic hunt on

Lives of 53 crew at stake as oxygen set to run out

AFP, Bali

Indonesia's desperate search for a missing submarine and its 53 crew was focused on a signal from an unidentified object yesterday, with just hours to go before the stricken vessel's oxygen reserves ran out.

Nearly two dozen warships were taking part in the ramped-up hunt, as Australia and the United States joined the search off the coast of Bali where the sub disappeared more than two days ago during training exercises.

The military said it had picked up signs of an object with high magnetism at a depth of between 50 and 100 metres. Ships equipped with specialised tracking equipment were deployed in the hope that it may be the KRI Nanggala 402, which was equipped with oxygen reserves that could last until early today, authorities said.

The search zone covers an area of about 10 square nautical miles (34 square kilometres).

"We've only got until 3:00 am tomorrow (Saturday) so we're maximising all of our efforts today," Indonesian military spokesman Achmad Riad said earlier.

An oil spill spotted where the submarine was thought to have submerged pointed to possible fuel-tank damage, fanning fears of a deadly disaster.

There were also concerns that the submarine could have sunk to depths believed to be as much as 700 metres (2,300 feet) -- well below what it was built to withstand.

The German-built vessel was scheduled to conduct live torpedo exercises when it asked for permission to dive. It lost contact shortly after.

Besides, US, Australia, India as well as neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia have already dispatched ships that are expected to arrive at the weekend, including the city-state's MV Swift Rescue -- a submarine rescue vessel.

Indonesia is also relying on a pair of its own submarines -- among the five in its fleet -- to aid in the hunt.

AstraZeneca shots benefits increase with age: EMA

AFP, The Hague

The EU's drug watchdog yesterday said that a review of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine found its benefits increase with age and still outweigh the risks for adults despite links to blood clots.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) was presenting its findings after the European Commission asked it to look into concerns that prompted several countries to restrict its use to older people.

"It showed that the benefits of vaccination increase with increasing age and infection rates," the EMA said in statement.

The benefits of Vaxzevria outweigh its risks in adults of all age groups; however, very rare cases of blood clots with low blood platelets have occurred following vaccination," it said, using the brand name for AstraZeneca's vaccine.

Clots are also being listed as a side effect of the J&J vaccine, which uses the same adenovirus vector technology as AstraZeneca, the EMA said earlier this week.

মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি
 Microcredit Regulatory Authority
 গুলশেণা প্রাজা (৭ম তলা)
 ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক
 বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
 স্মারক নম্বরঃ ৫০.০৪.০০০০.০১০.৬০.০০১.২১-১০৭০ তারিখঃ ২২/০৪/২০২১

স্বদ্রাধা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার সনদের আবেদন দাখিলের মেয়াদ পুনঃ বর্ধিতকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

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 উল্লেখ্য, আবেদন সংশ্লিষ্ট বিস্তারিত তথ্য অথরিটির ওয়েবসাইটে (www.mra.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

জিডি-৮১৩ এলিকিউটিভ ভাইস-চেয়ারম্যান

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
 Bangladesh Bridge Authority
 Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
 www.bba.gov.bd
 Memo No: 50.01.0000.408.33.007.20-61 Date: 22/04/2021

Corrigendum Notice (3rd)

It is hereby notified to all concern that the invitation for Tender (IFT) for "Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, and Maintenance of Low-Speed Weigh in Motion (LSWIM) Scales" invited vide memo 50.01.0000.408.33.007.20-18 date: 25 January 2021. Then, Corrigendum Notice (1st) and Corrigendum Notice (2nd) were also published. Now, for necessity due to COVID-19, Tender selling, closing and opening date as per published Corrigendum Notice (2nd) are changed vide this Corrigendum Notice (3rd) as following:

Ref. (IFT)	Descriptions	As per published IFT Original date	As per published Corrigendum Notice (2nd)	Amended as per Corrigendum Notice (3rd)
17	Tender Last Selling Date	23/03/2021, Office Hour	28/04/2021, Office Hour	20/05/2021, Office Hour
18	Tender Closing Date	24/03/2021, 12.00 Noon	29/04/2021, 12.00 Noon	23/05/2021, 12.00 Noon
19	Tender Opening Date	24/03/2021, 3.30 PM	29/04/2021, 3.30 PM	23/05/2021, 3.30 PM

All others terms and condition will remain unchanged. This 3rd corrigendum is an integral part of IFT which was published vide 50.01.0000.408.33.007.20-18 date: 25 January 2021.

(Quazi Muhammad Ferdous)
 Chief Engineer
 Ph: 02-55040313
 E-mail: chiefengineer@bba.gov.bd
 GD-814