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POST-COUP CRISIS IN MYANMAR

Asean claims breakthrough

Says agreement reached with junta on ending killings, accepting aid, 'political transition'

REUTERS, Jakarta

Southeast Asian leaders yesterday said they had agreed on a plan with Myanmar's junta chief to end the crisis in the violence-hit nation, but he did not explicitly respond to demands to halt the killing of civilian protesters.

"It's beyond our expectation," Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told reporters after the leaders' meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) that was also attended by Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

"We tried not to accuse his side too much because we don't care who's causing it," Muhyiddin added. "We just stressed that the violence must stop. For him, it's the other side that's causing the problems. But he agreed that violence must stop."

Asean leaders wanted a commitment from Min Aung Hlaing to restrain his security forces, who an activist monitoring group says have killed 745 people since a mass civil disobedience movement erupted to challenge his Feb. 1 coup. They had also wanted the release of political prisoners.

"He did not reject what was put forward by me and many other colleagues," Muhyiddin said.

According to a statement from group chair Brunei, a consensus was reached on five points - ending violence,

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The demand for oxygen is skyrocketing in the country with the number of cases and deaths related to coronavirus. A worker is refilling cylinders at a station in Narayanganj to meet the demand. Many such factories are kept open round the clock for the heavy workload.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

THE BUSINESS

Stopping spam texts now just a dial away

Mobile phone users can stop receiving promotional text messages on their handsets by dialing codes, said the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday.

The move comes amid complaints from users of being bombarded with numerous marketing messages regularly. Because of the receipt of so many messages, many important messages sometimes remain unnoticed.

Anyone unwilling to receive marketing SMSs can dial short codes and activate the "Do Not Disturb" option.

To activate the service, Grameenphone users have to dial *121*1101# and Banglalink users *121*8*6#. For Robi and Airtel, it is *7#.

STORY ON B1

BANSHKHALI SHOOTING

Statements, FIR mismatch worrying

Rights activists say

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Rights activists have expressed concern about a fair investigation into the case filed over police firing during demonstrations by workers of SS Power I Plant project in Chattogram's Banshkhalia upazila eight days ago.

They expressed the concern after noticing discrepancies between versions of witnesses and injured and the description of the incident in the case statement.

The April 7 incident left seven workers dead and at least 19 people injured.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the case statement. Sub-Inspector Rasheduzzaman Beg of Gandamara Police Outpost had filed the case with Banshkhalia Police Station on April 18.

The SI lodged the case

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bhashani's telegram to world leaders

APRIL 25, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BHASHANI APPEALS TO WORLD LEADERS

National Awami Party President Moulana Bhashani renewed his appeal to several world leaders to help the cause of Bangladesh. In a telegram, Bhashani requested the United Nations Secretary General U Thant to issue an immediate appeal to stop the brutal massacre of innocent people of Bangladesh. He also requested him to send observers to Bangladesh to see the nature and volume of looting, arson, mass killing and molestation of women by Pakistan army.

Bhashani appealed to the Soviet leaders to take more positive action to stop the barbarous massacres of hundreds of thousands of unarmed helpless people of Bangladesh.

Appreciating the statement issued by President Podgorny on the situation in Bangladesh, Bhashani said this was not enough and more positive action was urgently required.

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He also appealed to British Prime Minister Edward Heath and French President Pompidou, President Tito of Yugoslavia and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to raise voice against the brutal suppression of human rights and extend immediate recognition and all possible help to the government of Bangladesh. He also sent identical telegrams to Diallo Telli, secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity, and Abdul Khaleq Hassouna, secretary general of the Arab League.

GENERAL LULL IN FIGHTING
As the curtain fell on the first month of the war of liberation, Bangladesh cabinet appeared busy with the

AL leader stabbed to death by husband

STAR REPORT

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband in the capital's Pallabi area early yesterday.

The dead - Umama Begum Kanak, 40, wife of Omar Faruk, a former Japan expatriate - was a member of the Awami League's relief and social welfare sub-committee.

The incident took place around 12:30am at their house in Mirpur DOHS following a quarrel over several issues, Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said.

Police detained Faruk following the murder, he added.

Victim's sister Ruma Akter said Faruk returned from Japan a couple of years ago and since then was not doing anything in the country.

This frustrated Kanak, mother of two, leading to

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Wearable e-skin could monitor your health



CNN ONLINE

Doctors may be just a few years away from tracking your vital signs via electronic skin worn on the body.

Researchers in Japan say they have developed an ultra-thin, lightweight e-skin that is stuck to the chest area using water spray and can be worn for a week at a time.

The technology was developed by Takao Someya, a professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Engineering. It has yet to undergo clinical trials, but Someya says he

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 4-45 6-28 8-00
JAMAAT 4-20 1-15 5-00 6-38 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

evaly

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

12	25	6:28
13	26	4:04 6:29
14	27	4:03 6:29

Global daily cases hit new record

893,000 Covid cases reported in 24hrs

AGENCIES

A daily record of more than 893,000 Covid-19 cases has been recorded worldwide yesterday as US regulators said pharma giant Johnson & Johnson can restart a vaccine rollout paused due to worries over blood clots.

The total for cases recorded throughout Friday is based on official figures at 1000 GMT yesterday. The previous daily high was some 819,000 cases on January 8.

More than a third of the infections occurred in India, which announced 332,730 new cases on Friday and another 346,786 yesterday, also a record for a single country since the start of the pandemic.

Over the course of a week, more than 5.5 million cases were recorded worldwide, including almost two million in India. Other countries trailing India with the

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Amid the "strict lockdown" that has been imposed by the government to prevent the spread of deadly coronavirus, private and public vehicles, except buses, are plying on the streets quite normally. The photo was taken on Mirpur road in the capital's Shyamoli area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

Covid 'tsunami' hammers India

Triple mutant variant fears forces Odisha to close border with West Bengal

AGENCIES

India's daily coronavirus death toll set a new record yesterday as the government battled to get oxygen to hospitals overwhelmed by the hundreds of thousands of new daily cases.

Twenty patients died in one night at one New Delhi hospital suffering from oxygen shortages, medical officials said. A Delhi court said that the new pandemic wave had become "a tsunami".

Queues of Covid-19 patients and their fearful relatives were growing outside hospitals in major cities across India, the world's new pandemic hotspot, which has now reported nearly one million new cases in three days.

Another 2,624 deaths were reported in 24 hours, taking the official toll to nearly 190,000 since the pandemic started. More than 340,000 new cases were also reported, taking India's total to 16.5 million, second only to the United States.

But many experts are predicting the current wave will not peak for at least three weeks and that the real death toll and case count are much higher.

Germany and Kuwait yesterday followed the United Arab Emirates, Britain and New Zealand in restricting travel from the country.

Stung by criticism of its lack of preparation ahead of the wave of infections, the central government has organised special trains to get oxygen supplies to the worst-hit cities.

The Indian air force was also being used to transport oxygen tankers and other supplies around the country and

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