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Thai govt 'goes into hiding' amid protest

AP, BANGKOK
 The Thai government insisted yesterday it was "fully functional" but refused to disclose where officials were working to avoid provoking more protests with anti-government activists who have vowed to bring the administration to a standstill.
 Spokesman Nattawut Saikau indicated the Thai government had effectively gone into hiding to avoid thousands of protesters who surrounded the prime minister's temporary headquarters at Bangkok's domestic airport and embarked on a cat-and-mouse chase to block their meetings.
 Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat

was in Peru for a summit of Pacific Rim leaders and not expected back until Wednesday. But when he returns he will confront the latest twist in Thailand's political crisis and the need to find a new office space.
 Protesters seeking Somchai's resignation have occupied his Bangkok headquarters, known as Government House, since Aug. 26, forcing him to relocate to a makeshift office in the VIP area of the former international airport.
 Thousands of protesters from the People's Alliance for Democracy, or PAD, surrounded the government's makeshift offices at Don Muang airport Tuesday, a day after blockading Parliament and

forcing the postponement of an important parliamentary session.
 Protest leaders said their goal is to block the government from meeting whenever and wherever that may be.
 "We'll protest until there is no Cabinet meeting," said a protest leader, Somsak Kosaisuk. "We'll interrupt their every attempt to ruin the country further."
 The weekly Cabinet meeting is usually held Tuesdays but was changed to Wednesday because of Somchai's absence.
 A few thousands protesters marched later Tuesday from the airport to the nearby Thai army headquarters, where

PSC won't change 27th BCS results

Says its chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Public Service Commission (PSC) will not change the announced results of the much-talked 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations although the education adviser a few days ago assured the unsuccessful agitating candidates of considering their demand.
 "Let me tell you clearly that PSC will never change the results," said PSC Chairman Dr Saadat Hussain at a press conference at its office yesterday.
 "No one raised any question about our viva boards."



A man collects organic waste at Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the capital yesterday to be used as raw material for producing bio-fertiliser.

Tigers brace for pace

BISHWAJIT ROY in Johannesburg

Bangladesh batsmen need to come up with their best to survive against the lethal pace attack when they meet South Africa in the second and final Test at the SuperSport Park in Centurion today.
 The match will be telecast live on SuperSport from 2.30pm.
 Mohammad Ashraful's men are going to face the devastating Dale Steyn-led pace attack in a pitch which is being considered one of the quicker surfaces in South Africa and the home side were considering to play an all-pace attack on a seaming track.
 And if they ultimately go for that then fast bowler Monde Zondeki will replace injured spinner Paul Harris otherwise left-arm spinner Robin Peterson might replace him for the second Test.
 After an impressive bowling effort the Tigers batsmen stumbled to the pace particularly against Steyn, who grabbed match haul of seven wickets, to suffer an innings and 129-run defeat in the rain-interrupted first Test inside four days.
 South Africa have a very healthy record in this ground where they won eleven Tests out of 13 matches and in the last appearance they bowled New Zealand out for 188 and 136 runs in November last year.
 And it was alarming for the visitors that there has been grass on the pitch as per requirement of the home team management.
 Bangladesh kept the same 12-men squad leaving out Nazmul Hossain, Abdur Razzak and Sajidul Islam but they were planning to bring

7 special trains to tackle Eid rush

Railway targets carrying 75,000 passengers in 7 days

KAILASH SARKAR
 Bangladesh Railway (BR) has arranged seven special trains and 40 extra coaches to facilitate the journey of homebound passengers on the occasion of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.
 Now BR is ready to carry over 75,000 passengers with 50,000 seating arrangement every day on three days each before and after the Eid, railway sources said.
 Along with 66 intercity trains running across the country regularly with 43,000 capacity

passengers, BR would operate seven special trains to carry 4,500 passengers and 40 extra coaches for 2,000 passengers from December 6, according to the source.
 Besides, the railway authorities would allow over 50 percent standing passengers.
 Mohammad Miah Jahan, divisional commercial officer (DCO) of BR, told The Daily Star that BR would be able to carry around 50,000 seating passengers while over 25,000 standing passengers three days before and after the Eid.

70 fishermen kidnapped by pirates

UNB, Bagerhat

Pirates kidnapped 70 fishermen for ransom and injured 12 others in the Bay near Mongla and Sharankhola upazila early yesterday.
 Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Patharghata Fishermen Association, said about 30 members of Raju Bahini swooped on the fishing trawlers, beat up the fishermen and kidnapped 70 others for ransom.
 The pirates demanded Tk 50,000 for release of each of the abducted fishermen and

Kitchen market waste turns bio-fertiliser

World's first clean compost plant goes into operation in N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Bio-waste generated at the city's kitchen markets might no more be used for land filling and such other purposes since it is now being utilised as a raw material for producing quality bio-fertiliser.
 Collecting the organic waste from the markets, mainly Karwan Bazar vegetable market, local private firm Waste Concern, in association with its Dutch partners, has launched a compost plant at Bhulta in Narayanganj.

This is the first 'carbon trade-based' bio-fertiliser plant in the world and also the first Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project in Bangladesh. Waste Concern is working on waste management for long.
 The executive board of the UN-approved CDM under the Kyoto Protocol has already registered the project which will entitle its owners to get certificates for 'non-generation of carbon'. And they will sell those to developed countries.

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Students of Habibullah Bahar University College and traders of Karnaphuli Garden City shopping mall clash on Kakrail-Malibagh road in the city yesterday.

20 hurt as students clash with traders

Traffic movement halted for 3 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 At least 20 people were injured yesterday in a clash between students of Habibullah Bahar University College and businessmen of Karnaphuli Garden City shopping complex at Shantinagar in the city.
 The three-hour long clash over gathering of the students in the market stalled the traffic movement on the road from Kakrail to Malibagh creating severe gridlock in neighbouring areas.
 During the clash, at least six motorised vehicles and furniture of both the college and the shopping complex were vandalised. Chases and counter-chases created severe panic among the people in the area.
 Police said at one stage at about 11:00am employees of the shopping complex assaulted and confined some four students, which other students of the college protested strongly.
 Being set free, the students apprised their principal of the incident who then sent three teachers to settle the dispute. But the traders assaulted them too.
 The news spread fast on the campus and infuriated the students.
 Later, both the students and businessmen took position on the busy road and engaged in clashes.

Bridge blast kills 5 Indian police officers

AP, New Delhi

Suspected communist rebels blew up a bridge in India's restive east yesterday, killing five police officers who were escorting election officials, police said.
 The election officials were not harmed in the blast, which also left one police officer wounded, said Amarnath Upadhyaya, an inspector-general of police. Officials from India's Election Commission are in the region to hold polls for the state legislature. The rebels triggered the land mine as the police were walking across the bridge in Bastar district in Chattisgarh state, said Upadhyaya. The rebels then escaped into a forested area.
 The rebels, who claim to be

Somali pirates hijack Yemeni cargo ship

AFP, Nairobi

Somali pirates have hijacked a Yemeni cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden, a maritime official told AFP yesterday.
 Andrew Mwangura, head of the East African Seafarers Assistance Programme, identified the vessel as the MV Amani but provided no further details.
 Another maritime official speaking on condition of anonymity said the ship had been seized last week.
 World powers have vowed tough action against rampant piracy off Somalia's coastline.

Lankan troops poised to take Tiger HQ

AFP, AP, Colombo
 Security forces ambushed and killed scores of Tamil Tigers in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, the defence ministry said, adding its troops were poised to take the rebels' political capital.
 Government soldiers occupying a newly-captured bunker line from the Tiger rebels in the Jaffna peninsula carried out the ambush early Tuesday, the ministry said in a statement.
 It did not say if there were casualties among troops.
 However, the ministry said government soldiers in the northern mainland were set to take the town of Kilinochchi, the political capital of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
 Heavy fighting was raging along three fronts on the outskirts of Kilinochchi despite monsoon rains, the ministry said.
 "Soldiers are busy with strengthening the supply backbone for troops in the forward areas with loads of food, drinking water and medicine being transported there," the ministry said.
 "Troops await the next move. 'Kilinochchi we are coming' is their motto," the statement added.

On Monday, the ministry said 27 soldiers had been killed and another 70 wounded in fighting around Kilinochchi. The Tigers said they killed 43 troops while the military claimed they had killed over 120 Tigers.
 A pro-rebel report, meanwhile, said the guerrillas killed 43 soldiers in a separate battle Sunday and halted the government's march toward a strategic crossroads northwest of Kilinochchi.
 TamilNet quoted unidentified rebel officials as saying the clash occurred in Nalloor village. The rebels took away the bodies of eight soldiers, it said.
 Rebel officials could not be contacted for comment on the government report because communication lines to the north have been severed.
 The head of the government's security information centre, Lakshman Hulugalle, declined to comment on the report by the pro-rebel Web site, saying the government would not respond to accounts by rebel supporters.
 Both sides routinely inflate the number of casualties they inflict on their opponents, and it is not possible to verify battlefield reports because most journalists are barred from the war zone.

GRAFT CASE Proceedings against ex-whip Zahed stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for two months the proceedings against former BNP Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury in a corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).
 Following a writ petition filed by Zahed Ali Chowdhury, an HC bench of Justice Tariqul Hakim and Justice Farah Mahub also issued a rule upon the government and ACC to explain within two weeks why the initiation and continuation of the proceedings against the petitioner should not be declared illegal.
 On July 3, the ACC filed the case with Nokla police station in Sherpur against Zahed Ali Chowdhury on charges of

CONDOLENCE

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff Members of IFIC Bank Limited express their deep and heart felt sorrow at the sudden demise of Md. Shawkat Ali, former Managing Director of the Bank. We share the grief of the bereaved family members of the deceased and pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.

AMEEN

All Members of the Board and Officers and Staff of IFIC Bank Limited.

IFIC BANK LIMITED

Prayer Timing
 November 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation