



P3 Dhaka Gate set to regain its past glory



P5 Karnaphuli Tunnel: still a lot to do



P6 Pori is always my first priority



P7 Bolton admits he 'helped plan coups'

Sri Lankan president flees abroad

Lands in Maldives; he may fly to S'pore or UAE; protesters storm PM's office defying emergency

AGENCIES

Protesters in Sri Lanka defied tear gas, water cannon and a state of emergency to storm the prime minister's office yesterday after the president fled overseas.

Reports said Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives after an economic collapse unleashed a popular uprising that appeared to end his family's near two decade dominance of the country.

His decision to leave his ally Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in charge as acting president triggered more demonstrations, with protesters storming the premier's office demanding that he go too.

Rajapaksa, his wife and two bodyguards left the main international airport near Colombo aboard an air force plane early yesterday, the air force said in a statement.

Maldives' local media suggested that Rajapaksa was staying at an exclusive resort and would leave for either the United Arab Emirates or Singapore later yesterday.

"He is going into exile in either of the two locations," a Sri Lankan security source in Colombo told AFP. "Ensuring security would be a challenge because there are Sri Lankan communities in both."

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Protesters wave Sri Lankan flags after storming the office of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo yesterday. Barely hours after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country, thousands of people yesterday clashed with security forces, demanding the resignation of the prime minister, who was appointed as the interim president.

PHOTO: AFP

'MP assaults principal of a college'

Rajshahi lawmaker refutes allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi MP has allegedly assaulted a college principal at his office last week.

Lawmaker Omar Faruk Chowdhury from Rajshahi-1 constituency, however, refutes the allegation.

Talking to this correspondent, he claimed some college principals, who met him at his chamber on July 7, got locked into a brawl, and it was he who stopped them.

However, Asaduzzaman Asad, former general secretary of Rajshahi District Awami League, said he visited the injured principal of Rajbari Degree College, Salim Reza, at his home on Monday and saw bruises on different parts of his body. He added that the lawmaker was giving the ruling party a bad name.

Meanwhile, the National

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Taka again loses value against dollar

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The taka depreciated once again against the US dollar in the inter-bank platform yesterday.

The exchange rate stood at Tk 93.95 per dollar. It was Tk 93.45 on Tuesday.

On July 13 last year, the exchange rate was Tk 84.80, which means the taka lost 10.79 percent value in a year.

The country's foreign exchange market is facing a shortage of US dollars due

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Many digital services exist in name only

Finds a govt study

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHMUDUL HASAN

People are not getting the maximum benefit from the 761 services the government have digitalised for slow servers and poor internet speed, according to a government evaluation.

A number of those services can no longer be requested online, according to the evaluation of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) on 67 select digital services of 26 ministries and divisions.

The information was collected through direct interviews with 55 service providers at the administrative level and 340 service recipients and beneficiaries at the marginal level.

About 91 percent of the service recipients said the services still exist and the rest said it is no longer running. About 90 percent of the users are positive about digital services.

Although most of the surveyed people expressed their satisfaction with the services, they are facing different types of problems while requesting e-dockets, land mutation, e-passport, machine-readable passport, loan service, e-trade licence and health service on call, among others.

The websites through which the services can be requested are not updated regularly.

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Spinners lead Tigers to series victory



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh continued their dominance over the West Indies in ODIs as the Tamim Iqbal-led side registered a comprehensive nine-wicket victory to clinch the three-match series 2-0 with a game in hand at the Providence Stadium in Guyana yesterday.

After bundling out the hosts for a meagre 108 in just 35 overs -- the Tigers' best bowling performance against a Test-playing side away from home -- Tamim smashed an unbeaten fifty while Liton Das was 32 not out to see the Tigers home in just 20.4 overs.

Tamim finished the chase in style, going down the ground and smashing spinner Gudakesh Motie for a boundary to bring up his 53rd ODI fifty.

The win was Bangladesh's 10th in a row over West Indies in ODIs, which also ensured the Tigers' fourth successive bilateral series triumph against them.

Bangladesh got off to a solid start as openers Tamim and Najmul Hossain Shanto combined for a 48-run stand.

Shanto departed when he miscued a Motie delivery and was caught in the cow corner in the 13th over.

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Govt takes austerity to field level

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and JAMIL MAHMUD

In face of growing pressure on the country's economy, the government issued strict directives to field-level administration to practise austerity while spending from the budget allocation.

"The allocated money must be spent maintaining austerity subject to compliance with the government's financial and administrative rules," reads a public administration ministry directive issued to all upazila and district administrations last week.

The directive was published on the ministry's website yesterday.

The public administration ministry has also directed that field-level administration will in no way be allowed to spend additional money surpassing the amount allocated for them in the national budget for 2022-23.

The directive came days after similar instructions were issued by the finance ministry.

On the first working day of this fiscal year on July 3, the finance ministry in three notices rolled out a "cocktail of austerity measures" for all ministries and divisions, saying following those directives can save about Tk 60,000 crore.

The instructions came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 29 urged everyone to practise austerity.

The public administration ministry in its directive

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BUSINESS NOTICE

The business pages are not being published today as regular business activities are yet to resume after Eid-ul-Azha holidays. The business pages will be out as usual from Friday.

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