

Sri Lanka: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa flees the country amid protests; Lands in Maldives



Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has left the country, according to a high-ranking security official. Rajapaksa and his wife flew to Malé, in the Maldives, on an AN32 troop transport plane from the Sri Lanka Air Force. Gotabaya Rajapaksa has been accused of high-level corruption and economic mismanagement, which ultimately bankrupted the country and triggered its worst financial crisis since independence.

New UK PM set to be announced on September 5



In UK, the ruling Conservative party said that the process to replace outgoing prime minister Boris Johnson is set to conclude on September 5th. According to media reports 11 candidates are vying for the job, with the voting process beginning this week. Candidates must have at least 20 MPs backing them in order to enter the race, up from the usual eight, and any candidate who fails to get the support of 30 MPs in the first ballot will be eliminated. The new Conservative leader will be chosen in a two-stage election, in which the 358 Conservative lawmakers reduce the race to two candidates through a series of elimination votes. Candidates who fail to get at least 30 votes are eliminated at each round. The Conservative leadership contest was triggered last week when Johnson was forced to step down.

Netherlands apologies to survivors of Srebrenica genocide



The Netherlands offered its apologies for the role played by Dutch peacekeepers in the Srebrenica genocide. For the first time since the 1995 massacre, Dutch Defense Minister Kaja Ollongren apologized to survivors for the Dutch peacekeepers' failure to prevent the killings. The Srebrenica killings came at the tail end of the Balkan wars of the 1990s. Bosnian Serb forces overran the Dutch UN protection zone at Srebrenica and massacred 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The slaughter, judged an act of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, was the worst single atrocity of the war, in which about 100,000 people died.

Japanese bid final goodbye to assassinated former PM Shinzo Abe



Japanese bid their final goodbye to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as his funeral was held at a temple days after his assassination. About 1,000 people, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, governing party leaders, and foreign officials, attended the funeral at the temple. Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister, remained influential even after stepping down two years ago for health reasons. Abe was shot at close range on Friday while giving a campaign speech in the city of Nara, days ahead of upper house elections that saw his ruling party strengthen its hold on power.

COVID-19 pandemic is nowhere near over: WHO



World Health Organization has warned that COVID-19 remains a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern.' WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, fresh waves of COVID-19 cases show that the pandemic is nowhere near over. He said, cases of COVID continue to rise, putting further pressure on stretched health systems and health workers, and deaths are unacceptably high.

WHO chief urged governments to regularly review and adjust their COVID response plans based on the current epidemiology and also the potential for new variants to appear. Sub-variants of Omicron, like BA.4 and BA.5, continue to drive waves of cases, hospitalization, and death around the world, he added.

PM Modi to participate in First I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) leaders Virtual Summit on Thursday



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the First I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit on Thursday along with Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President of the USA Joseph R. Biden. The Leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in the respective regions and beyond.

I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. The I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries held on 18th October last year. Each country also has Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.

75th Independence Day: Govt to launch Har Ghar Tiranga nationwide campaign to inspire people to hoist national flag



The Central government will soon launch a nationwide campaign Har Ghar Tiranga to inspire countrymen to hoist the national flag at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day. The initiative has been taken under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, for which the Ministry of Culture is the nodal ministry. The Indian National Flag is a symbol of national pride for the entire nation and to further honour the national flag, Union Home Minister Amit Shah who oversees all efforts under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has approved the program of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

It envisages encouraging Indians everywhere to hoist the national flag. The use, display, and hoisting of the Indian National Flag is guided by the Flag Code of India, 2002.

India, Brazil Navies may collaborate soon



The Navies of India and Brazil, both of which operate the French Scorpene class submarines, are exploring options for collaboration towards maintenance of the diesel-electric attack submarines, the Navy said. A Brazilian Navy delegation was at the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, where this issue was extensively discussed.

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala to launch AHIDF projects & felicitate 75 entrepreneurs at AHIDF conclave



Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala will launch Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, AHIDF projects and felicitate 75 entrepreneurs at the AHIDF conclave being organized in New Delhi. As part of the celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Ministry is organizing AHIDF conclave.

The purpose of this conclave is to provide a platform for Knowledge Sharing, launch of AHIDF operational guidelines 2.0, revamped AHIDF online portal, Credit Guarantee Online Portal, inauguration of five major plants setup with the support of AHIDF scheme, facilitation of Entrepreneurs or lenders and Networking between all stakeholders and upcoming entrepreneurs.

Paper Import Monitoring System, PIMS will come into effect from 1st October this year



Paper Import Monitoring System, PIMS will come into effect from 1st October this year. As per PIMS, an importer will have to provide advance information online about the import of papers and obtain a registration number. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has introduced Paper Import Monitoring System by amending the import policy of major paper products.

The PIMS will be applicable on import by a Domestic Territory Area unit on a wide range of paper products covering 201 tariff lines, such as newsprint, handmade paper, tissue paper, toilet paper and cartons. Commerce and Industry Ministry said, paper products like currency paper, bank bond and Cheque paper and security printing paper have been excluded from mandatory registration.

SII to launch vaccine to prevent cervical cancer



The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture indigenously developed India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer. DCGI's approval comes following recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 of the CDSCO on June 15 over the same.

Cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age with a high death ratio in India.

Retail inflation eases to 7.01% in June this year compared to 7.04% in preceding month



Retail inflation, based on the consumer price index (CPI), eased to 7.01 per cent in June this year compared to 7.04 per cent in preceding month. As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, inflation eased marginally mainly due to easing prices in 'Food & Beverages' section. In June 2022, inflation in the food basket came at 7.56 per cent, compared to 7.84 per cent in the May this year.

Surging global commodity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine war and high crude oil prices have kept inflation above RBI's six percent upper tolerance range.

IIP jumps 19.6 percent in May this year as against 7.1 percent in preceding month



The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) jumped 19.6 percent in May this year as against 7.1 percent in preceding month. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office, the manufacturing sector's output grew 20.6 percent in May this year while the mining output climbed 10.9 percent and the Electricity sector surged 23.5 percent.

Nepal's foreign exchange reserves increase by 170 million dollars in one month



Nepal's foreign exchange reserves rose by 170 million dollars in the one-month period between mid-May and mid-June. According to the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the gross foreign exchange of the country stood at 9.45 billion dollars in mid-June, compared to 9.28 billion dollar in mid-May. However, over the 11 months of this fiscal, the foreign exchange reserves has slumped 19.6 percent from 11.75 billion dollar in mid-July of 2021. During the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, merchandise exports surged by 53.3 percent compared to an increase of 37.8 percent in the same period of the previous year.

India thrash England by ten wickets in first ODI of three-match series



India thrashed England by ten wickets in the opening One Day International of three-match cricket series at Kennington Oval in London. Put into bat first, the hosts were bundled out for 110 in 25.2 overs. Jaspreet Bumrah took six wickets and Mohammed Shami three wickets. In reply, India chased down 111-run target in 18.4 overs without losing any wicket riding on skipper Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 76 off 58 balls and Shikhar Dhawan's 31 not-out runs.

Savita stars as India tastes victory



Skipper-cum-goalskeeper Savita was in fine form as India defeated Canada 3-2 via shoot-out, after the teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time, in their classification match of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup.