

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including USD, EUR, GBP, INR, PKR, BDT, AFD, and others.

Dozens arrested in Sri Lanka amid protests over worsening economy



COLUMBO, Sri Lanka - Police in Sri Lanka have filed an overnight curfew in the country's capital and several other major cities after arresting dozens of people and quelling unrest that has large crowds attempting to storm President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's private residence amid anger over a worsening economic crisis.

Mine accident in Serbia kills at least eight, injures 20



An accident at a mine in central Serbia killed at least eight people and wounded 20 Friday, state television reported.

The accident at the Sokolac coal mine happened around 5:00 a.m. (10:00 GMT). The RTS report says that 49 miners were inside when the accident happened.

Russia accuses Ukraine of attacking oil depot



An oil storage depot in Ukraine was just north of Ukraine, the site had previously been an attack by two Ukrainian helicopters.

Assam: 'Mysterious' giant stone jars found in India



Researchers have discovered giant "mysterious" jars in India that may have been used for ancient human burial practices.



Photo By: Abdul AH Afghan

Gul Ghundi Aryoub Zazi, Paktia

Similar stone vessels have previously been found in Laos and Indonesia.

The details of the discovery which involved researchers from three universities in India and Australia, were published in the Journal of Asian Archaeology.

"We still don't know who made the jars or when they were used. It's all a bit of a mystery," said Nicholas Sheppard, a researcher at the Australian National University.

Although it is still not clear when the jars were used for the researchers believe they were likely associated with mortuary practices.

They are made from the same type of local limestone as the Assam jars, filled with ceramic remains, beads and other materials.

"I think you can see the jars are empty, and they were once possibly covered with lids."

Shanghai residents voiced growing frustration on Friday at lockdowns over a week of COVID-19 lockdowns, taking to social media to complain about food shortages and bread-baking stay-at-home orders.

After initially covering they would avoid a city-wide lockdown, officials changed tack this week and announced a phased shutdown which divided China's financial center in two in an attempt to test its 25 million residents.

A four-day lockdown of the financial center in two in an attempt to test its 25 million residents, followed by stay-at-home orders for the densely populated Pudong zone which was meant to start on Friday.

But many Pudong neighborhoods were suddenly ordered to stay-at-home on Thursday, while much of Pudong was still closed on Friday, angering residents on both sides.

"This is the facts city-wide lockdown," one Weibo user said. "Many Pudong users and companies are still in lockdown, low food shortages and bread-baking stay-at-home orders."

Authorities last Thursday published a bread-baking "grid management" plan for responding, which would keep all residential compounds where a positive test is found closed, as well as the financial center in two in an attempt to test its 25 million residents.

The restrictions have led to panic buying at shops in well as a surge in delivery orders, forcing many to go back to the markets to get food for the million now trapped at home.

In this continuing lockdown, aiming to start on Friday, another person on Weibo said, calling government promises to do "window shopping".

Residents of some compounds have shared expectations by taking deliveries attached to shops located to the ground, according to AFP reports.

An protest starts to stay in Shanghai among a public, who have broadly accepted with strict controls for two years, leading city official Ma Chunlin on Thursday made a rare admission of failure, saying the city was "insufficiently prepared" for the outbreak.

With an infection level of several thousand cases a day, Shanghai has become the heart of China's worst COVID-19 outbreak since the virus was first detected in Wuhan in 2019.

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