

TALIBAN ASSAULT ON AFGHAN CITY

Thousands flee as fighting rages

AFP, Lashkar Gah

Tens of thousands of people in southern Afghanistan have fled their homes following days of heavy fighting between the Taliban and security forces, officials said yesterday, as violence continues to soar despite ongoing peace talks.

Taliban militants launched a series of attacks on the city of Lashkar Gah in restive Helmand province on Sunday night, prompting the US to call in air strikes to defend Afghan forces.

The fighting triggered an exodus by local residents who crammed onto motorcycles, taxis and buses.

"More than 5,100 families or 30,000 people... have fled the fighting so far," Sayed Mohammad Ramin, director of the refugees department in Helmand, told AFP.

"Some families are still living in the open in the streets in Lashkar Gah, we don't have tents to give them."

Local resident Hekmatullah said he was forced to flee after a mortar hit his neighbour's house, killing two women.

Fighting was ongoing in at least four districts yesterday, Afghan officials said, adding that security forces have repelled repeated Taliban assaults in the area.

Under a deal the Taliban signed with Washington in February, the insurgents are not supposed to hit urban areas and are meant to keep violence down.

Talks began last month between the Taliban and Afghan government in Doha but appear to be stalled as the two sides have struggled to establish a basic framework for negotiations.

Republicans fear a 'blue wave'

Senate's hold at stake too as Trump campaign failing to hurt Biden as it did to Clinton

AGENCIES

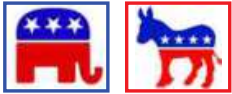
Donald Trump is running out of days to change the current trajectory of the presidential election. Polls have grown so one-sided that Republicans fear a Democratic "blue wave" in November with control of the Senate also at stake.

The current polling average is a 10.6-point advantage in favor of former vice president Joe Biden and running mate Senator Kamala Harris.

On 29 September, that average was just 6.1 points. Only one more major scheduled event remains on the calendar prior to the election day, the last debate on October 22.

Presently, Biden's favorable/unfavorable number is positive (more favorable) by 6.9 points,

US ELECTION 2020



18 DAYS TO GO



People wait in line to cast their ballots for the upcoming presidential election as early voting begins in Texas, on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

according to the averages compiled by RealClearPolitics.

Compare that with Clinton in 2016, when the former first lady was viewed more unfavorably on the eve of the election by 12.9 points. That's a swing of 19.5 points in favor of the Democrats. The president's average is 42.9 per cent favorable to 54.2 per cent unfavorable (minus -11.3).

If the current polling proves

prophetic, the GOP's control of the Senate is nearly certain to be lost. Republicans hold a 53-47 Senate advantage, but trail in four races for Republican-held seats and are bogged down in tossup contests in five other states.

According to the current electoral map based on polling averages, Democrats would turn the currently red GOP Senate seats in Arizona, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina

Karabakh fighting widens

Azerbaijan strikes inside Armenia after accusing Baku of trying to attack gas, oil pipelines; Russia again urges calm

AGENCIES

Azerbaijan yesterday said it had destroyed missile launchers inside Armenia that were targeting its cities and vital gas and oil pipelines, as fierce fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh risked widening beyond the disputed region.

Hundreds have already lost their lives in two weeks of fighting, and continued clashes have rendered almost meaningless a humanitarian ceasefire agreed in Moscow last week.

Armenia confirmed that military positions inside the country had been hit but denied its forces had been firing into Azerbaijan. It warned that it too could start targeting military sites inside its adversary's territory.

Clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh -- where Armenia-backed separatist fighters are battling Azerbaijani forces -- have been largely confined



to areas in and around the region since a fresh outbreak of fighting started last month.

Direct confrontations between Armenia and Azerbaijan risk spiralling into an all-out, multi-front war with devastating consequences for both sides.

Russia yesterday again appealed to both sides to observe the humanitarian ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.

The latest fighting, which erupted on September 27, has been the most intense since a 1994 ceasefire, claiming more than 600 lives, including more than 70 civilians, according to a tally based on partial tolls from both sides.

Each side has accused the other of targeting civilian areas with shelling, missile and rocket attacks.

Panicked Europe battens down against 2nd wave

Another vaccine trial halted over safety issues

AGENCIES

European countries have begun to close schools and cancel surgeries, going well beyond curbs on social life, as overwhelmed authorities face their nightmare scenario of a Covid-19 resurgence right before the onset of winter.

Most European nations eased lockdowns over the summer to start reviving economies already heading for unprecedented downturns and job losses from the pandemic's first wave. But the return of normal activity - from packed restaurants to new university terms - fuelled a sharply-rising spike in cases all over the continent.

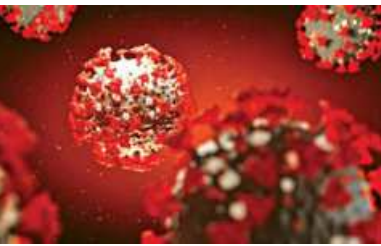
Bars and pubs were among the first to shut or face earlier closing in the new lockdowns, but now the surging infection rates are also testing governments' resolve to keep schools open and non-Covid medical care going.

Moscow authorities said yesterday they would introduce online learning for many students starting on Monday, while Northern Ireland announced a two-week schools' closure.

French President Emmanuel Macron was expected to unveil further restrictions yesterday, with media reporting that city curfews are under consideration. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces opposition calls to impose another national lockdown in England, but has so far resisted.

Meanwhile, another late-stage Covid-19 medical trial has been paused. US pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly on Tuesday suspended its Phase 3 trial of its lab-produced antibody treatment in hospitalised patients over an unspecified incident.

Meanwhile, expert yesterday said the restrictions imposed during the pandemic have caused an unprecedented fall in greenhouse gas emissions in the first half of 2020 -- larger than during the 2008 financial crisis and even World War II.



J&K ex-CM vows to restore Article 370

NDTV ONLINE

Soon after her release from a 14-month detention, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti has vowed to continue her struggle for the restoration of Article 370, which gave a special constitutional status, and the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

"We all have to pledge that we will take back what was snatched illegally, undemocratically and unconstitutionally on August 5 last year. We will also have to work for the resolution of Kashmir issue for which thousands of people have laid down their lives," Mehbooba, President of the People's Democratic Party, said in a short audio message on Twitter late Tuesday night.

Mehbooba also demanded the release of Kashmiri people languishing in jails.

India ended the special status of J&K and bifurcated it into federally-ruled territories on August 5 last year.

THAI ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT PROTEST

Rival groups face off on Bangkok streets

REUTERS, Bangkok

At least 10,000 Thai protesters marched to the prime minister's office yesterday demanding he stepped down, while thousands of royalist supporters also turned out in their biggest showing since anti-government demonstrations began three months ago.

The two camps gathered face-to-face at Bangkok's Democracy Monument, which has become a focal point for the protests. They kept apart barring some brief scuffles, but the standoff was an uncomfortable reminder of a decade of street violence between supporters and opponents of the establishment that ended in a coup in 2014.

Meanwhile, thousands of yellow-clad supporters of King Maha Vajiralongkorn lined the streets to catch a rare glimpse of the monarch as his motorcade drove through Bangkok.

One royalist leader, Buddha Issara, said the protesters could demand democracy but must not call for reforms of the monarchy, as some have done.

"They must not touch the institution," he told reporters.



Student leaders, boarded on a truck, lead a procession as pro-democracy protesters march towards the Government House during an anti-government rally in Bangkok, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel approves 2,166 new West Bank settler homes

Israel approved 2,166 new homes in settlements across the occupied West Bank yesterday, official figures sent to AFP showed, ending an eight-month lull in settlement expansion. The approvals came less than a month after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements to normalise relations with Israel, which in return pledged to freeze its plans to annex swathes of the West Bank. NGO Peace Now says the settlement uptick signals Israel's rejection of Palestinian statehood and deals a blow to hopes of a wider Israeli-Arab peace. There were no comments from UAE, Bahrain till filing this report.

China, Russia elected to UN rights council; S Arabia fails

China and Russia were elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council on Tuesday, but support for Beijing dropped by more than 20 percent compared with a 2016 vote and Saudi Arabia failed in its bid to win a seat on the Geneva-based body. The 193-member UN General Assembly also elected Ivory Coast, Gabon, Malawi, Cuba, Bolivia, Uzbekistan, France and Britain to the 47-member council. Senegal, Nepal, Pakistan, Ukraine and Mexico were re-elected for a second three-year term. Council members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The new members will begin their term on Jan. 1, 2021.

EU agrees Russia sanctions over Navalny poisoning

The EU yesterday agreed to impose sanctions on six people and one entity over the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny with a Novichok nerve agent, diplomats told AFP. Ambassadors from the 27 EU countries approved sanctions after France and Germany proposed measures last week, saying Russia was responsible for the poisoning. In line with usual EU practice, those targeted by the sanctions -- travel bans and asset freezes -- will not be named until the measures take legal effect today, but they are likely to be Russian officials.

Heavy rains kill 12 in India

Heavy rains have killed at least 12 people in southern India and caused widespread flooding in the city Hyderabad, home to major IT companies and startups, government officials said yesterday. A wall collapsed killing nine people in Hyderabad, the capital of the southern state of Telangana, while the other three were killed in separate incidents, they said. Torrential rain also battered the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. Many parts of Hyderabad had received more than 25 cm (10 inches) of rainfall over the past 24 hours, a government official said, while floodwater inundated main roads and caused widespread chaos. Authorities in Hyderabad declared a two-day holiday starting from yesterday and asked residents to stay indoors.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

খুলনা-৯২০৩

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বখাতের আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় বেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাদিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম | বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী) | পদ সংখ্যা |
|------------|--|----------------------------|-----------|
| ১। | সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ | ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/- | ১টি |
| ২। | সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ | ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/- | ১টি |
| ৩। | সহকারী অধ্যাপক (রাষ্ট্র-১ ও সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে-২), সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ | ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- | ৩টি |
| ৪। | সহকারী অধ্যাপক, কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ | ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- | ১টি |
| ৫। | সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ | ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- | ১টি |
| ৬। | সহকারী অধ্যাপক (সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে), আরবান এন্ড রিজিওনাল প্ল্যানিং বিভাগ | ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- | ১টি |
| ৭। | প্রভাষক, গণিত বিভাগ | ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- | ২টি |
| কর্মকর্তাঃ | | | |
| ৮। | সহকারী পরিচালক (অডিট) | ২৯০০০-৬০৪১০/- | ১টি |
| কর্মচারীঃ | | | |
| ৯। | অফিস সহায়ক, ফ্যাব ল্যাব | ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- | ১টি |

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.kuet.ac.bd/career) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং- ০১ হতে ০২ এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৩৫০ টাকা, ক্রমিক নং- ৩ হতে ৮ এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ২৫০/- (দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ৯ এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ১৫০/- (একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনলাইন পেইমেন্ট সিস্টেম (www.payment.kuet.ac.bd/recruitment) এর মাধ্যমে টাকা জমা দিয়ে রশিদটি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ০২/১১/২০২০ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫:০০টার মধ্যে আবেদন পত্র রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে ইমেইল (recruitment@kuet.ac.bd)-এ জমা দিতে হবে।

(জি. এম. শহিদুল আলম)
রেজিস্ট্রার
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-1636



AFP, Brisbane

Great Barrier Reef has lost half of its corals

Half of the Great Barrier Reef's corals have died over the past 25 years, scientists said yesterday, warning that climate change is irreversibly destroying the underwater ecosystem.

A study published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society Journal found an alarming rate of decline across all sizes of corals since the mid-1990s on the vast World Heritage-listed reef off Australia's northeastern coast.

Larger species, such as branching and table-shaped corals, have been affected hardest -- almost disappearing from the far northern reaches of the reef.

"They're typically depleted by (up to) 80 or 90 percent compared to 25 years ago," report co-author and James Cook University professor Terry Hughes told AFP.

Aside from its inestimable natural, scientific and environmental value, the 2,300-kilometre-long (1,400-mile-long) reef was worth an estimated \$4 billion a year in tourism revenue for the Australian economy before the coronavirus pandemic.



Focus on 'preparing for war'

Xi tells troops

CNN ONLINE

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on troops to "put all (their) minds and energy on preparing for war" in a visit to a military base in the southern province of Guangdong on Tuesday, according to state news agency Xinhua.

During an inspection of the People's Liberation Army Marine Corps in Chaozhou City, Xinhua said Xi told the soldiers to "maintain a state of high alert" and called on them to be "absolutely loyal, absolutely pure, and absolutely reliable."

The main purpose of Xi's visit to Guangdong was to deliver a speech yesterday commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, which was established in 1980 to attract foreign capital and played a vital role in helping China's economy become the second-largest in the world.

The White House notified US Congress Monday that it was planning to move ahead with the sale of three advanced weapon systems to Taiwan, according to a congressional aide, including the advanced High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

In a stern response from Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian called on Washington to "immediately cancel any arms sales plans to Taiwan" and cut all "US-Taiwan military ties."

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১২১/২০২০

তারিখঃ ১২/১০/২০২০

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'সিনিয়র অফিসার (লিগ্যাল অফিসার)' পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এ 'সিনিয়র অফিসার (লিগ্যাল অফিসার)' পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের লক্ষে Online-এ প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ যাচাইয়াত্তে যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের ২ ঘণ্টাব্যাপী ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৩/১০/২০২০ তারিখ শুক্রবার অপরাহ্ন ৩ঃ০০টা হতে ৫ঃ০০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত ৩টি কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

| ক্রঃ নং | কেন্দ্রের নাম | ঠিকানা | রোল নম্বর | পরীক্ষার্থীর সংখ্যা |
|---------|--|--|-----------|---------------------|
| ১। | Bangladesh Bank High School (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়) | Motijheel, Dhaka. | ১০০১-১৯০০ | ৯০০ জন |
| ২। | Lalmatia Girls' High School (লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়) | 9/15, Block-D, Lalmatia, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. | ১৯০১-৩৭০০ | ১,৮০০ জন |
| ৩। | Anwara Begum Muslim Girls' High School & College (আনোয়ারা বেগম মুসলিম বালিকা উচ্চ বিদ্যালয় ও কলেজ) | 13, Nazimuddin Road, Dhaka. | ৩৭০১-৪৮২২ | ১,১২২ জন |

উক্ত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ ইতোমধ্যে আপলোড করা হয়েছে। প্রার্থীগণ পরীক্ষা গুরুত্ব অব্যাহিত পূর্ব পর্যন্ত উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট হতে তাদের প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে পারবে। উল্লেখ্য, পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা গুরুত্ব কমপক্ষে ১ ঘণ্টা পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে এবং সামাজিক দূরত্ব মেনে সারিবদ্ধভাবে কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে প্রবেশ করতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোনো প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না। পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্ট ওয়াচ বা অন্য কোন ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স ডিভাইজ, প্রবেশপত্রের একাধিক কপি বা অতিরিক্ত কাগজ নিয়ে পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশ না করতে নির্দেশনা দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

উল্লেখ্য, মাস্ক পরিধান ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

আরিফ হোসেন খান
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ও সদস্য সচিব, বিএসসি

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-২৮৪৯
তারিখঃ ১৪/১০/২০২০
জিডি-১৬৩৮

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারবার্টন শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।