



THE DAILY

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"The [Covid] situation will be grave if [virus] transmission can't be controlled. The death toll will rise."



"The vaccination campaign has been a complete mess... The government has failed to tackle the pandemic."



"Today we had to come out here to speak to you (the media) as we are not allowed to speak inside parliament... This is the murder of democracy."



Kabul offers to share power with Taliban

Claim reports as insurgents move closer to Afghan capital after taking Ghazni

AGENCIES

The Afghanistan government has made a power-sharing proposal to the Taliban in exchange for a halt in the escalating violence in the country, media reports said yesterday, as the insurgents seized the strategic city of Ghazni, just 150 kilometres from Kabul.

The capture of Ghazni is their most important gain in a lightning offensive that has seen them overrun 10 provincial capitals in a week.

The conflict has escalated dramatically since May, when US-led forces began the final stage of a troop withdrawal due to end later this month following a 20-year occupation.

As security forces retreated across the country, Kabul handed a proposal to Taliban negotiators in Qatar offering the power-sharing deal, according to a member of the government's team in Doha who asked not to be named.

A second negotiator, Ghulam Farooq Majroh, said the Taliban had been given an offer about a "government of peace" without providing more specifics, reported AFP.

The proposal has also been reported by Afghanistan's local media and Al Jazeera yesterday.

However, the presidential palace in Kabul did not confirm the development, saying there has been no change in its plan.

Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, is meeting with officials from the United States, China, Russia and Afghanistan's regional neighbours in Doha.

Yesterday, Abdullah said the government's peace plan has been shared with the Qatari government, without referring to the reported offer to the Taliban.

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VACCINE RECEIVED
SINOPHARM
 70 lakh (procured)
 11 lakh (Gift)
 34.70 lakh (Covax)

PFIZER
 1.06 lakh (Covax)
MODERNA
 55 lakh (Covax)
ASTRAZENECA
 70 lakh (Procured)
 33 lakh (Gift)
 16,41,980 (Covax)

TOTAL
 2,91,17,980

VACCINE ADMINISTERED
Sinopharm
 71,94,872
AstraZeneca
 1,05,90,918
Pfizer
 82,734
Moderna
 22,20,583



VACCINATED PEOPLE
1,50,23,162
 (First dose)
50,65,945
 (Second dose)

- Mass vaccination began on Feb 7, suspended on Apr 25
- Vaccination resumed on July 7
- Special campaign began on Aug 7
- Total registration - over 3 crore

VIRUS TRANSMISSION

If not checked, situation may turn grave

Warns health minister

THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

"DECISION GAMES" that we play with our people

SEE PAGE 8

ATTACK ON 2 BANKERS

Court clears two Sikder brothers of charges



COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cleared Ron Haque Sikder, managing director of Sikder Group, and his brother, of the charges of abducting, torturing, and opening fire on two Exim Bank officials.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after complainant of the case Exim Bank Director Lt Col (retd) Serajul Islam told the court that he had no objection if the court accepted a police final report.

During the hearing on the probe report, Ron was present in the court. He had obtained bail.

His brother Dipu Haque Sikder, now abroad, was shown as absconding.

On July 29, investigation officer Md Ripon Uddin, a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, submitted the report to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court of Dhaka mentioning that an out-of-court settlement had been reached.

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A man takes a nap and another sits nearby while waiting for free food distributed by police in Paribagh area of the capital yesterday. Unable to endure the sun, many left sandals, as placeholders, in the circles drawn on the street to ensure physical distancing.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORTS

No explanations yet on 1.5 lakh pending requests