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"We hope that India will provide rest of the Covid vaccines as the country promised."
FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN



"American troops cannot and should not be fighting in a war and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves."
US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



"We have and will continue to prioritise our most cherished partnerships with our closest neighbours, especially Bangladesh."
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN DHAKA VIKRAM DORAISWAMI

Taliban strike dovish tone

Say they want peace, will respect women's rights under Islamic law, announce 'general amnesty'; evacuation flights resume

AGENCIES

The Taliban held their first official news conference in Kabul yesterday since the shock seizure of the city, declaring they wanted peaceful relations with other countries and would respect the rights of women within the framework of Islamic law as evacuation flights resumed after a day of chaos.

"We don't want any internal or external enemies," the movement's main spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, said.

Mujahid said women would be allowed to work and study and "will be very active in society but within the framework of Islam".

The Taliban would not seek retribution against former soldiers and members of the Western-backed government, he said, saying the movement was granting an amnesty for former Afghan government soldiers as well as contractors and translators who worked for international forces.

"Nobody is going to harm you, nobody is going to knock on your doors," he said.

He said private media could continue to be free and independent in Afghanistan, adding the Taliban was committed to the media within its cultural framework.

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- Taliban say no one will be allowed to use territory for attacks
- Say burqa not mandatory for women, hijab is
- Talks on 'inclusive govt' continue as Mullah Baradar arrives in Kandahar
- Regional powers welcome positive gestures by insurgents
- Biden defends troops withdrawal amid fierce criticism



Brandishing their weapons, Taliban fighters stand guard at an entrance gate outside the interior ministry in Kabul yesterday. *Inset*, Indian nationals prepare to board an Indian military aircraft at the airport in Kabul to be evacuated after the Taliban's stunning takeover of Afghanistan.

PHOTO: AFP

Four more Bangladeshis stranded in Afghanistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Four more Bangladeshis were found stranded in Afghanistan, two days after the commercial flights were suspended as the airport in Kabul turned chaotic with thousands of foreigners and Afghans scrambling to leave after the Taliban's capture of the country Sunday.

"They include civil engineer Amzad Hossain, international aid agency official Mridul Kanti Biswas, one Abul Khair and another Bangladeshi [whose name could not be remembered]," Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan, who also has concurrent accreditation to Afghanistan, told this correspondent last night.

They all were in safety, but concerned over how they could return home, he said.

Abul Khair is now living in Mazar-e-Sharif, which is close to the Uzbek border.

"We had reached out to the Uzbek authorities so that Abul Khair could be evacuated to Uzbekistan and then flown to

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Another e-commerce site in trouble

Consumer sues eorange; 2 ex-owners land in jail; ministry asks for its books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after a consumer sued eorange for not delivering products against payment, two former owners of the e-commerce platform yesterday surrendered before a Dhaka court which sent them to jail, rejecting their bail pleas.

In another development, the commerce ministry asked eorange to provide it with information on all its assets and liabilities within seven days, said Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary of the ministry.

A notice in this regard was issued by the ministry's Central Digital Commerce Cell in the face of an allegation that consumers were being harassed by the company.

The notice said some consumers complained that they did not receive products from the platform on time despite paying a huge amount of money in advance. The authorities came to know about the matter from the media, it said.

It is a clear violation of the Digital Commerce Management Guideline 2021, Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009 and Penal Code-1860, the notice said.

The notice asked eorange to gather and provide the ministry with information on

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TALIBAN: REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

It all depends on line they'll take

Foreign policy experts see instability, revival of militancy if Taliban take a hard line



Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman, Prof Delowar Hossain, Prof Shahab Enam Khan

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Foreign relations analysts fear long-term instability and a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan as the Taliban takes control of the country following the withdrawal of US forces, with its repercussions felt in the entire region.

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan will inspire the Islamist militants in South and Central Asian countries.

On the other hand, mineral-resourceful Afghanistan will see rising competition as the global powers will seek strategic interests in the South Asian country.

Much of it will, however, depend on how the Taliban demonstrates itself: whether it becomes moderate and can gain international recognition or turns violent and hard-line in enforcing Shariah rule that was practised during their previous regime in 1996-2001 and if Taliban can cut off its links to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

After seizing control of Afghanistan almost unopposed on Sunday when President Ashraf Ghani fled, the Taliban and Afghan leaders were in

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329 land in hospitals with dengue in one day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A record 329 dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, with more than 300 of them getting admitted to hospitals in the capital.

Of the patients, only 23 are from outside the city. Meanwhile, another dengue patient died yesterday, raising the death toll to 26 this year.

Of them, 14 died in the last 17 days and the rest in July, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of dengue patients this year stood at 6,650 till yesterday and of them, 3,992 were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne viral infection over the last 17 days.

Of the patients, only 353 are from outside the capital.

The DGHS data shows 2,286 dengue patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June and 43 in May.

At least 1,114 patients are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in the capital and 66 outside the capital, it said.

Patients deprived of healthcare

DGHS sits on decision to reopen Praava Health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is yet to decide when to re-open Praava Health after temporarily suspending its operation about two weeks ago due to "minor" violations of rules, leaving the private health service provider in limbo at a time when hospitals in the capital are overwhelmed with Covid patients.

Health directorate officials said they received two applications from Praava early this month for a temporary stay on the suspension to allow it to provide healthcare services. But no decision has been made yet in this regard.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on August 2 suspended all healthcare activities of Praava Health, well-known for providing quality medical services to the city dwellers at their homes.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Farid Hossain Miah, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, said Praava recently submitted two applications to the health directorate.

"It sought a stay on the suspension of its operation. But we are yet to make any decision in this regard."

Earlier this week, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (Administration) at the (DGHS), told this newspaper that they would take into consideration all the aspects before making any decision on Praava.

Seeking anonymity, a DGHS official said Praava submitted two applications to the DGHS -- the first on August 3 and the second on August 9.

The official, however, refused to give details.

Contacted, Praava officials declined to comment in this regard.

Last month, a DGHS inspection team visited Praava after Dr Mahfuz Shafique, son of ex-law minister Shafique Ahmed, complained of "non-cooperation" from the

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COLLEGE GIRL'S DEATH Sister seeks further probe

Files no-confidence petition against police report clearing Bashundhara MD

STAR REPORT

A no-confidence petition was filed yesterday against the police probe report clearing Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir of the charges in the case over abetting the death by suicide of a college student in the capital's Gulshan.

The victim's elder sister, complainant of the case, submitted the petition to the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury, seeking further probe into the April 26 incident.

The court is likely to pass an order in this regard today, said court sources.

At yesterday's hearing, the complainant said Investigation Officer Abul Hasan had told her that he would press charges against the accused under section 302 (murder) of the Penal Code and section 9

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198 more die from Covid, 7,535 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials yesterday reported 7,535 new cases of coronavirus, marking a rise in the number of daily detections for three days in a row after a weeklong decline.

The number of daily new cases fell to 6,684 on Sunday from 11,466 on August 9.

The number of deaths of patients confirmed to have Covid-19 also rose for the second straight day with the health directorate reporting 198 deaths in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday.

Yesterday's reported positivity rate was 19.18 percent, down from 21 percent reported the day before.

Of those reported dead yesterday, 116 were male and 82 were female.

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Policemen and BNP men engage in a brawl moments before a full-on clash breaks out in the capital's Chandrima Udyan yesterday morning. *Right*, policemen fire teargas shells at the crowd. Dozens, including BNP leaders, were injured in the clash.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Dozens hurt as BNP men, cops clash in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP men and police clashed in the capital's Chandrima Udyan yesterday, leaving several party leaders and activists as well as law enforcers injured.

The clash took place around 10:30am after members of the newly-formed convening committees of BNP's Dhaka city north and south units went to place wreaths at the grave of party founder Ziaur Rahman.

The BNP and the police blamed each other for the clash during which some vehicles were vandalised on nearby streets.

The BNP said the law enforcers attacked them without any provocation while Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal claimed that police were compelled to use teargas after being attacked by BNP leaders and activists.

Witnesses said some leaders and activists of the party, including Aminul Huq, member secretary of Dhaka north city unit of the BNP, gathered in the park area around 10:30am. Police then prevented them from going inside.

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