

## TALIBAN TAKEOVER IN AFGHANISTAN

### Putin: we don't want Afghan militants in Russia

President Vladimir Putin yesterday rejected the idea of sending people evacuation from Afghanistan to countries near Russia, saying he did not want "militants showing up here under cover of refugees". Russian news agencies reported. Putin criticised an idea of some Western countries to relocate refugees from Afghanistan to neighbouring Central Asian countries while their visas to the United States and Europe are being processed. "Does that mean that they can be sent without visas to those countries, to our neighbours, while they themselves (the West) don't want to take them without visas?" TASS news agency quoted Putin as telling leaders of the ruling United Russia party.

### Afghan baby girl born on US military plane

An Afghan woman gave birth to a baby girl on a US military plane shortly after arriving on an evacuation flight to Germany, the US Air Force tweeted yesterday. During the flight from a staging base in the Middle East, the woman went into labour and began to experience complications, it said. "The aircraft commander decided to descend in altitude to increase air pressure in the aircraft, which helped stabilise and save the mother's life," the US Air Mobility Command said later on Twitter. Immediately on landing at the Ramstein base, US military medics helped the woman deliver her baby in the cargo hold of the plane. Mother and child were then transferred to a nearby medical facility "and are in good condition", it said.



This handout photo received from the Australian Defence Force yesterday shows people onboard the Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Inset, Britain's Ambassador to Afghanistan Laurie Bristow speaks with a man next to a HMG staff member as they facilitate the UK evacuation effort in Kabul.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

## Israeli planes bomb Gaza

Troops fire at Palestinian protesters; dozens hurt

AFP, Gaza City

Israeli warplanes bombed Gaza late Saturday after clashes between its troops and Palestinian protesters left dozens injured, including an Israeli border policeman and a 13-year-old Palestinian boy who were both critically wounded.

The Israeli military said it carried out air strikes against four weapons sites and that it had reinforced its Gaza division with additional troops.

The escalation came exactly three months since Israel and the enclave's Islamist rulers Hamas reached a truce following their deadliest fighting in years.

Israeli troops fired at Palestinian protesters who gathered near the Gaza border wall, the army and Palestinian witnesses said.

A Palestinian gunman fired at Israeli troops through an opening in the wall and crowds of young protesters hurled explosives over the barrier and tried to scale it. The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry said the injured included a 13-year-old boy left in a critical condition after being hit in the head.

"Forty-one civilians were wounded with various injuries," the ministry said in a statement, with Hamas saying "thousands" of protesters had taken part.



## Afghan resistance prefers talks

NRF's goal is to avoid bloodshed, press for a new system of govt

AFP, Kabul

Former Afghan government forces forming a resistance movement in a fortified valley are preparing for "long-term conflict", but are also seeking to negotiate with the Taliban, their spokesman told AFP in an interview.

Since the Taliban took control of the country following a lightning charge into the capital Kabul, thousands of people have made their way to Panjshir to both join the fight and find a safe haven to continue their lives, Ali Maisam Nazary said.

There, Ahmad Massoud, the son of legendary Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud who was assassinated by Al-Qaeda two days before the September 11, 2001 attacks, has assembled a fighting force of around 9,000 people, Nazary added.

Pictures taken by AFP during training exercises show dozens of recruits performing fitness routines, and a handful of armoured humvees driving across the valley northeast of Kabul.



The National Resistance Front's (NRF's) main goal is to avoid further bloodshed in Afghanistan and press for a new system of government.

But Nazary said the group is also prepared for conflict, and if the Taliban do not negotiate they will face resistance across the country.

"The conditions for a peace deal with the Taliban is decentralisation -- a system that ensures social justice, equality, rights, and freedom for all," said Nazary, the NRF's head of foreign relations, adding if the Taliban do not agree there will be "long-term conflict".

Talks between local leaders from Afghanistan's north and authorities in Pakistan were taking place until just days ago, he added.

While the Taliban control the vast majority of Afghanistan, Nazary optimistically highlighted reports that local militias in some districts have already begun resisting their headline rule and have formed links with Massoud's NRF.

"Massoud did not give the order for these things to happen but they are all associated with us," Nazary said. "The Taliban are overstretched. They cannot be everywhere at the same time. Their resources are limited. They do not have support amongst the majority."

He said, however, that Massoud had different views to Amrullah Saleh, latterly the country's vice president who is also holed out in the valley and last week vowed to lead an uprising.

"Mr Saleh is in Panjshir. He opted to stay in the country and not flee," Nazary said.

## 'Indian brothers, sisters came to our rescue'

Afghan woman on her evacuation

NDTV ONLINE

The situation in Afghanistan is "deteriorating", an Afghan woman refugee, who was among 168 people evacuated from Kabul on a special Air Force flight this morning, told news agency ANI.

The woman said she, her daughter and her two grandchildren had been forced to flee after the Taliban "burnt down my house", and she thanked the Indian government for rescuing them.

"Situation was deteriorating in Afghanistan, so I came here with my daughter and two grandchildren. Our Indian brothers and sisters came to our rescue. They (the Taliban) burnt down my house. I thank India for helping us," the unidentified woman said.

168 people, including 107 Indians, 24 Afghan Sikhs and two Afghan senators, were on board an Air Force transport aircraft that landed safely at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad near Delhi earlier today.

The evacuees included some Indian Sikhs who had taken refuge at a Kabul gurudwara.

ANI visuals also showed an infant among those safely evacuated; in the video the child is in the arms of his/her mother, while a young girl (presumably the older sister) smiles happily and kisses the baby.

Photographs also showed a second infant was on board the plane; the child was also safe in his/her mother's arms, with the father standing by their side, as the young family waits to be processed.



### US VP Harris begins Asia trip

Vice President Kamala Harris began a trip to Asia yesterday where she will offer reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region after the chaotic US pullout from Afghanistan and Taliban takeover. The hardline Islamists' swift return to power a week ago, and desperate scenes of thousands trying to flee, have cast another shadow over the United States' status as a global superpower. But on her visit, which includes stops in Singapore and Vietnam, Harris will seek to allay concerns about US dependability. "The vice president will make clear throughout the trip that we do have an enduring commitment to the region," said a senior US official. Harris, an Asian-American whose mother was of Indian origin, landed in Singapore yesterday and will start her activities today by meeting the city-state's leaders.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## Momen, Biman trade blame for confusion

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yesterday told The Daily Star they still haven't received a response from India about resuming flights after they, on August 4, sent a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of India, seeking its approval for flight resumption from August 11 under the air bubble agreement.

After Biman's announcement, many passengers bought their tickets to India and those currently in India bought their tickets to return home. These passengers are now uncertain as to when the flights will actually resume.

Meanwhile, aviation experts have criticised Biman's management for its unprofessional and imprudent handling of the matter and advised the national flag carrier to offer an apology to the passengers.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday over phone from South Africa's Pretoria, Foreign Minister Momen said he did not say that flights between India and Bangladesh will (definitely) resume from August 20.

"What I said is that flights between the two countries might resume at that time."

He also added that India had informed the foreign ministry that it agreed "in principle" to resume flights.

"But the respective departments of the two countries will determine when and how the flights will resume. It is not the task of the foreign ministry to do that."

Asked about Biman's announcement and the passengers who already purchased tickets, Momen told this correspondent to ask Biman high-ups instead.

During the announcement of flight resumption, Momen said that India had agreed to resume operations based on a request made by Bangladesh, considering the demands to facilitate the movement of passengers and goods.

The next day, Biman sent a press release to different media announcing the operation of flights to Kolkata and Delhi from yesterday onwards under an "air bubble" agreement.

An air bubble agreement is a bilateral air corridor established between various countries to ease travel restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the release, the national air operator announced two weekly flights to Delhi and three to Kolkata.

Biman also asked the intended passengers to carry out Covid-19 tests in less than 72 hours leading up to their flight schedules.

A top Biman official said the airlines formally announced the resumption of flights from August 22 on the basis of the foreign minister's statement.

Wishing anonymity, he also said as the foreign ministry unequivocally announced it, Biman authorities thought it was certain. However, Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, Biman's managing director

and CEO, told this correspondent they were yet to get any direction from CAAB to resume flights with India.

Asked about Biman's announcement, he said, "Like other airlines of the country, we have announced this as part our preparation to operate flights."

Amid this confusion, hundreds of passengers' travel to India, most of which are for treatment purposes, has become uncertain, several of them told this correspondent.

Moreover, many Bangladeshis who went to receive treatment in different cities in India and are still stranded there for months had also bought tickets of the national airliner hoping to fly back yesterday, sources said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert, said Biman's attitude regarding announcing flight schedules to India was totally unprofessional.

"How [could] they formally announce the flight schedule without CAAB's approval? Biman should offer an apology to all the affected passengers."

Air communication between India and Bangladesh was halted for several months when the Covid-19 outbreak began in the country.

It resumed on October 28 last year under the air bubble agreement. But was halted again later due a surge in infection rates in both countries.

## Myanmar's junta arrests more journos

REUTERS

Myanmar's military government has arrested two more local journalists, army-owned television reported on Saturday, the latest among dozens of detentions in a sweeping crackdown on the media since a February 1 coup.

Sithu Aung Myint, a columnist for news site Frontier Myanmar and commentator with Voice of America radio, and Htet Htet Khine, a freelance producer for BBC Media Action, were arrested on August 15, Myawaddy TV reported.



**ডেল্টা লাইফের বকেয়া কর পরিশোধ**

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিমিটেড এর সাবেক সিইও আদিবা রহমান এর সময়কালে অপরিশোধিত কর থেকে ১২,৮৯,২৬,৬২৩ (বার কোটি উননব্বই লক্ষ আশ্বিন হাজার দ্বয়শত তেইশ) টাকার পে অর্ডার ২২/০৮/২০২১ইং তারিখে মাননীয় এনবিআর চেয়ারম্যান জনাব আবু হেনা মোঃ রহমাতুল মুনিম এর নিকট হস্তান্তর করেছেন মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম- প্রশাসক ডেল্টা লাইফ ইস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, পরামর্শক - ডঃ মাফজুল হক, মোঃ মঞ্জুরে মাওলা - উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও সিও - ডেল্টা লাইফ ইস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিমিটেড এবং ট্যাক্স এডভাইজার মোঃ খালেদ হোসেন।

**ডেল্টা লাইফ ইস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিমিটেড**

## HC questions

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The petition was submitted on August 16 following a July 8 report published by the BBC Bangla regarding the death of an Ideal School and College student who was bullied by other students.

He developed anorexia and bulimia due to bullying, according to the BBC Bangla report.

Yesterday, the HC also ordered the district education officer of Dhaka to conduct an inquiry into the reported incident and submit the probe report to the bench in 60 days, petitioner Advocate Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Secretaries concerned at the ministries of education and law, director-general of Directorate of education, district education officer of Dhaka, and the principle of Ideal School and College have been made respondents to the rule, he added.

During the hearing on the petition, Advocate Tanvir told the HC, citing a report published on The Daily Star, that according to Unesco more than 23 percent of students have been bullied by peers, leaving a negative impact on the children's mental development.

Such bullying needs to be prevented to protect the students, he argued.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
National Board of Revenue  
Rajswa Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
[www.nbr.gov.bd](http://www.nbr.gov.bd)  
**Corrigendum-5**

**Tender Name:** Supply, Installation and Commissioning and Testing of 10 (ten) X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 (one) MW Human Body Scanners.  
**Tender Number:** File-08.01.0000.067.42.012.20  
**Corrigendum No:** File-08.01.0000.067.42.012.20  
Date: 19/08/2021  
Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Tender Invitation Notice published for "Supply, Installation and Commissioning and Testing of 10 (ten) X-ray Baggage Scanners and 01 (one) MW Human Body Scanners" has been changed as follows:

Serial Number as per Invitation Notice	Description of the content	As per Tender Schedule Content	Amended Content
16	Tender last selling date	22/08/2021, Time-3.00pm	12/09/2021, Time-3.00pm
17	Tender closing date & time	23/08/2021 Time-3.00pm	13/09/2021 Time-2.20pm
18	Tender opening time	23/08/2021 Time-3.40pm	13/09/2021 Time-3.00pm

Tender Schedule	Description of the Content	Existing Content	Amended Content
Tender Data Sheet, Page No. 30	ITT 38.1	The deadline for submission of Tenders is: Time & Date: 23/08/2021 at 3.00pm	The deadline for submission of Tenders is: Time & Date: 13/09/2021 at 2.20pm
Tender Data Sheet, Page No. 31	ITT 44.1	The deadline for opening of Tenders is: Time & Date: 23/08/2021 at 3.40pm	The deadline for opening of Tenders is: Time & Date: 13/09/2021 at 3.00pm

02. All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged.

**Zakia Sultana**  
23/08/2021  
Member (Customs: Audit, Modernization and International Trade)  
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GD-1497