

'I am totally lost'

Rising food prices, shuttered banks add to misery for Kabul

REUTERS, Kabul

A week after the Taliban's lightning seizure of Kabul, growing numbers of people in the Afghan capital are facing a daily struggle to get by with their jobs gone, banks still shuttered and food prices soaring.

The thousands crowded outside the airport entry points and fighting for seats on flights out of Kabul have provided the starkest image of the turmoil in the city since the Western-backed government collapsed.

But as the days pass, everyday worries about food and rent are adding to the uncertainty in a country whose fragile economy has been crushed by the disappearance of international support.

"I am totally lost, I don't know what should I think about first, my safety and survival or feeding my kids and family," said a former policeman, now in hiding who has lost the \$260 a month salary that used to support his wife and four children.

Like many lower level government employees, who have often gone long periods without being paid, for the past two months he has not even received that.

"I'm living in a rental apartment, I have not paid the owner for past three months," he said.



General view of the crowds of people near the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday. A firefight involving Western forces erupted at the airport yesterday when Afghan guards exchanged fire with unidentified gunmen, Germany's military said, adding to the evacuation chaos as Washington faces pressure to extend its deadline to withdraw.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AFGHANISTAN POLITICAL CRISIS

ETHNIC DIVERSITY AT THE CENTRE OF CONFLICT

Afghanistan's ethnic diversity has been at the centre of politics and conflict in the country for more than a century, and these divides are expected to play a role in the Taliban's formation of a new government. No single ethnic group has a decisive majority among Afghanistan's 40 million people, and the fissures have been a perennial challenge to political stability. Here is a brief overview of the major ethnic groups in Afghanistan:

PASHTUNS

The Pashtuns are Afghanistan's biggest ethnic group, making up more than 42 percent of the population. The group -- which is predominantly Sunni Muslim and speaks the Pashto language -- has dominated Afghan politics since the 18th century. Many Pashtun leaders over the years have stressed a "right to rule" Afghanistan, which has angered other ethnic groups. The Taliban, in control of Afghanistan for a second time after their 1996-2001 regime, are a Pashtun-dominated group. Even the two presidents under the previous US-backed governments -- Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani -- were Pashtuns. Traditionally based in the south and east of the country, the dominant position of the Pashtuns has often caused resentment among other groups, especially because of political, economic and cultural marginalisation.

TAJIKS

The Tajiks are the second-biggest ethnic group, making up more than a quarter of the Afghan population. The main language among Tajiks is a dialect of Farsi called Dari, also the lingua franca of Afghanistan. The group is mainly distributed in the north and west of the country, with strongholds in the Panjshir Valley, the western city of Herat and some northern provinces. The Panjshir Valley is famed for resisting occupation not only by the Soviet military in the 1980s but also by the first Taliban regime. While not politically dominant, a number of prominent Tajik leaders have emerged in recent decades. The revered



mujahideen leader Ahmad Shah Massoud -- "The Lion of Panjshir" -- who fought the Red Army and the Taliban is at the top of that list among Afghans. Burhanuddin Rabbani, a Tajik from Badakhshan province in the north, served as Afghan president from 1992 to 1996 before Kabul fell to the Taliban.

HAZARA

The Hazara, believed to have origins in Central Asia and Turkic peoples, are around 10 percent of the population and are mainly based in central Afghanistan. They speak a Dari dialect and are predominantly Shia Muslim. The group faced violent oppression and discrimination in Afghanistan over both religion and ethnicity for more than a century. They have also suffered massacres across various Afghan governments in recent decades, but especially under the Taliban -- headline Sunni Muslims who have usually labelled Shias heretics.

UZBEKS

Afghan Uzbeks are also around 10 percent of the population, mainly based in the north of the country close to the border with Uzbekistan. A Turkic people, they are mainly Sunni Muslims. The most famous, and notorious, Afghan Uzbek is the warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, who fought with the Soviets against the mujahideen before changing sides and effectively setting up his own stronghold centred on the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. He was a leading figure in the Northern Alliance that helped end Taliban rule after the US invasion of 2001, and later joined the Ghani administration as a first vice-president. He fled to Uzbekistan when Mazar-i-Sharif fell to the Taliban this month.

SOURCE: AFP

Harris vows 'enduring engagement' in Asia

Reaffirms US commitment to keep South China Sea open

AFP, Singapore

Vice President Kamala Harris vowed "enduring engagement" in Asia yesterday, offering reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region following the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover.

The hardline Islamists' swift return to power a week ago, and desperate scenes of thousands trying to flee, have cast a shadow over the United States' status as a global superpower.

But on a visit to Singapore, her first stop on a trip that will also include Vietnam, Harris repeatedly insisted that Washington could be depended on.

"Our administration is committed to enduring engagement in Singapore, into Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific," Harris told a press conference alongside Singapore's leader.

"The reason I am here is because the United States is a global leader, and we take that role seriously."

But she dodged questions about whether US

credibility had been damaged by the Afghan debacle, saying only her government's focus was on "evacuating American citizens, Afghans who worked with us and vulnerable Afghans, including women and children".

Harris is also facing criticism for being tone-deaf in going ahead with a visit to Vietnam as US forces struggle to evacuate tens of thousands of people.

US officials insist the trip was planned long before the Afghan crisis and is focused on Washington's broader strategic goals in Asia.

Southeast Asia is seen as critically important at a time China is challenging US political sway and naval dominance in the region.

Washington has repeatedly criticised Beijing's expansive claims to almost the entire flashpoint South China Sea, which overlap with claims of several Southeast Asian states and Taiwan.

At yesterday's press conference, Harris reiterated US commitment to "uphold the rules-based international order and freedom of navigation, including in the South China Sea".



Medical supplies stuck at Kabul airport: WHO

REUTERS, Geneva

More than 500 tonnes of medical supplies including surgical equipment and severe malnutrition kits due to be delivered to Afghanistan this week are stuck because of Kabul airport restrictions, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

Aid agencies say it is critical that medical and food supplies reach some 300,000 people displaced in Afghanistan over the past two months amid advances by Islamist Taliban insurgents that culminated in their capture of Kabul on August 15.

Nearly 18.5 million people - half the population - rely on aid and the humanitarian needs are expected to grow due to drought. But the closure of Kabul airport to commercial flights has held up deliveries, WHO regional emergency director Dr. Richard Brennan told Reuters.

"While the eyes of the world now are on the people being evacuated and the planes leaving, we need to get supplies in to help those who are left behind," Brennan said in an emailed statement.

He said the WHO was calling for empty planes to divert to its warehouse in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to collect the supplies on their way to pick up evacuees from Afghanistan.

The United States has enlisted six commercial airlines to help move Afghan evacuees, however Washington and Nato coalition partners have so far indicated that they cannot bring supplies on incoming evacuation planes due to "operational constraints and security concerns", Brennan said.

"The US is using these commercial airlines only for evacuation," he said, adding that the WHO was exploring various options and reaching out to other governments.

'There is no time to waste'

Aid groups warn water crisis, drought threaten 12m people in Syria, Iraq

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

More than 12 million people in Syria and Iraq are losing access to water, food and electricity, 13 aid groups warned in a report as they called for urgent action to combat the severe water crisis.

Rising temperatures, record low levels of rainfall, and drought are depriving people across the region of drinking and agricultural water, said the report, published yesterday. Syria is currently facing its worst drought in 70 years.

Compiled by a group of international organisations, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Danish Refugee Council, CARE, Action Against Hunger, and Mercy Corps, among others, the report warned higher temperatures caused by climate change increased the risks and severity of droughts in the region.

The changes in the climate also disrupted electricity as dams ran out of water, which in turn impacted the operation of essential infrastructure including health facilities, they said.

"The total collapse of water and

food production for millions of Syrians and Iraqis is imminent," said Carsten Hansen, regional director for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"With hundreds of thousands of Iraqis still displaced and many more still fleeing for their lives in Syria, the unfolding water crisis will soon



become an unprecedented catastrophe pushing more into displacement," he added.

CARE's regional director in the Middle East and North Africa, Nirvana Shawky, said the severity of the situation had been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The situation demands that authorities in the region and donor governments act swiftly to save lives

in this latest crisis that comes on top of conflict, Covid-19, and severe economic decline," said Shawky. "In the longer term, beyond emergency food and water, they need to invest in sustainable solutions to the water crisis."

Since autumn 2020, unseasonably low levels of rainfall across the eastern Mediterranean basin have contributed to drought conditions in Syria and Iraq, according to a UN report in June.

The water crisis was compounded by progressively decreasing water flows into the Euphrates River -- which runs through both countries from Turkey -- over months, falling from 500 cubic metres per second in January to 214 cubic metres per second in June 2020, said the UN.

According to the report, more than five million people in Syria who depend on river water were directly impacted by the burgeoning water crisis as hundreds of kilometres of agricultural land risked total drought.

At the same time, with two dams in northern Syria facing imminent closure, about three million people risked losing access to electricity.

Israeli attack on Gaza strip 'apparently broke law': HRW

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

Israeli air raids that demolished four high-rise buildings in the besieged Gaza Strip during its assault on the enclave in May apparently violated international laws of war, a leading international human rights group said yesterday, calling on the Israeli military to produce evidence justifying the attacks.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) noted although no one was harmed in the air raids, the attacks damaged neighbouring buildings, left dozens of people homeless, and destroyed scores of businesses.

"The apparently unlawful Israeli strikes on four high-rise towers in Gaza City caused serious, lasting harm for countless Palestinians who lived, worked, shopped or benefited from businesses based there," said Richard Weir, crisis and conflict researcher for the New York-based group.

"The Israeli military should publicly produce the evidence that it says it relies on to carry out these attacks."

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to the report. But at the time it accused Hamas -- the group that governs the enclave -- of using the buildings for military

purposes and turning their occupants into human shields. However, it provided no evidence to back up its claims.

It was HRW's third report on the 11-day Israeli offensive, which was marked by its intensity and the targeting of civilian structures.

It previously accused Israel of apparent war crimes for attacks it said had no clear military targets but killed dozens of civilians. Examining the actions of Palestinian groups out of the Gaza Strip, it also said that they fired rockets indiscriminately at Israeli cities, constituting a war crime.

Both sides denied the accusations. The conflict erupted on May 10 after Hamas fired a barrage of rockets towards Israel in support of Palestinian protests against Israel's heavy-handed policing of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by illegal Jewish settlers in the nearby neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

The rockets were launched just minutes after the passing of a Hamas-issued ultimatum for Israel to withdraw its forces from the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound as well as Sheikh Jarrah.

DEVASTATING FLOODS

22 dead in US state of Tennessee

AFP, Washington

Devastating floods after record rainfall in the southern US state of Tennessee have left at least 22 people dead and at least 20 more missing, local officials said Sunday in what they warned was a preliminary toll.

Tennessee was hit Saturday by what meteorologists called historic storms and flooding, dumping as much as 17 inches of rain.

Rural roads, state highways, bridges and hundreds of homes were washed out and widespread power outages affected thousands of people.

In Humphreys County, the downpour broke a 24-hour rainfall record for Tennessee, the National Weather Service said.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন) এর কার্যালয়
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০৩/২০২১-২০২২

নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে "পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮" এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য আইন অনুযায়ী চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইনস্ রেশন স্টোর ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য (০১ অক্টোবর/২০২১ খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর/২০২১ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের) (ক) দেশীয় ছোট দানার উন্নতমানের ১,২০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ বিশ হাজার) কেজি "মস্তর ডাল" ক্রয় এবং (খ) উৎকৃষ্ট মানের প্লাস্টিক কন্টেইনার পত্রের মাধ্যমে ১,১৫,০০০ (এক লক্ষ পনের হাজার) লিটার উন্নত ব্রান্ডের "সয়াবিন তৈল" ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন সরবরাহকারী/ফার্ম/দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে-

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।		
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।		
৩.	মালামাল ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	পুলিশ কমিশনার, সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম।		
৪.	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান	(ক) উন্নতমানের দেশী ছোট দানার মস্তর ডাল ক্রয় ও (খ) উৎকৃষ্ট মানের প্লাস্টিক কন্টেইনার পত্রের মাধ্যমে সয়াবিন তৈল ক্রয় সংক্রান্তে।		
৫.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।		
৬.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৫/০৯/২০২১ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
৭.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৯/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়-দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৯/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়-দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।		
৯.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০৯/২০২১ খ্রিঃ, সময়-দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।		
১০.	বাজেট ও অর্ধের উৎস	জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।		
১১.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	০৩/২০২১-২০২২		
১২.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	হাসান মোঃ শওকত আলী, উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম।		
১৩.	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইনস্ অফিস কক্ষ।		
১৪.	মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	দরপত্র তফসিল মোতাবেক।		
১৫.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ/২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজপঞ্জরাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে- ক) ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, গ) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশনসহ পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ সনদপত্র, ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার প্রত্যয়নপত্রসহ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ববর্তী ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের ব্যাংকের সহিত লেনদেনের স্টেটমেন্ট, ঙ) জাতীয় আইডি নাথারের সনদ/জাতীয়তার সনদপত্র, চ) মস্তর ডালের ক্ষেত্রে এগ্রিকালচারাল লাইসেন্স, ছ) ছবিসহ ফার্মের মালিকানাধীন হলফনামার কপি এবং প্রতিনির্দিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ছবিসহ প্রতিকারপত্র।		
১৬.	সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান/সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	(ক) সিএমপি রেশন স্টোর, দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইনস্, চট্টগ্রাম। (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়, যোগেশ্বর, চট্টগ্রাম। (গ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কোটবিল্ডিং, চট্টগ্রাম।		
১৭.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	(ক) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইনস্ কার্যালয়। (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়, যোগেশ্বর, চট্টগ্রাম।		
১৮.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন	পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন অনুযায়ী।		
১৯.	কাজের বিবরণ			
লট নং	দরপত্রের বিষয়	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারতথ্যোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জমানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
০১	উন্নতমানের ছোট দানার "মস্তর ডাল"	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র	৪,০০,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ) টাকা	০১/১০/২০২১ খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/১২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)
০২	উৎকৃষ্টমানের সয়াবিন তৈল (ব্রান্ডের)	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র	৫,০০,০০০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ) টাকা	০১/১০/২০২১ খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/১২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)