

Taliban beat UN staff in Kabul

Says internal doc of the world body

REUTERS, New York

The Taliban stopped an Afghan United Nations staff member as he tried to reach Kabul airport on Sunday. They searched his vehicle and found his UN identification. Then they beat him.

On Monday, three unknown men visited the home of another UN staff member who was at work at the time. They asked his son where his father was, and accused him of lying: "We know his location and what he does."

The incidents are among dozens contained in an internal UN security document seen by Reuters that describes veiled threats, the looting of UN offices and physical abuse of staff since August 10, shortly before the Taliban swept to power.

While the Islamist militant movement has sought to reassure Afghans and Western powers that they will respect people's rights, reports of reprisals have undermined confidence, not least among those associated with foreign organisations.

The Taliban did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the UN incident list.

The group has said it would investigate reported abuses, and has also encouraged aid organisations to continue their work. It said this week that aid was welcome, as long as it was not used as a means of political influence over Afghanistan. The United Nations said it did not comment on leaked security documents.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric added: "The authorities that are in charge in Kabul are responsible for the safety and security of UN staff and premises. We remain in touch with them in that regard."



A general view of a coronavirus disease ward for children in Mumbai, India yesterday. Several Indian states are building facilities with more paediatric beds, plus oxygen, due to concern that children returning to school without being vaccinated will be among the most vulnerable during a third wave of coronavirus infections.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Total failure': War on terror 20 yrs on

Twenty years ago, US president George W. Bush declared a "war on terror". Today, its failure is undeniable, with jihadist groups both more numerous and scattered more widely across the world. Bush launched the war on terror after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington which were plotted from Afghanistan by Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who was sheltered by the Taliban regime of the time.

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan toppled the Taliban and degraded the capabilities of Al-Qaeda, but it did nothing to eradicate the causes of violent Islamic extremism at its roots, analysts say. "They managed to kill Bin Laden," said Abdul Sayed, a researcher on jihadism based at Lund University in Sweden, referring to the killing of the Al-Qaeda chief by US special forces in Pakistan in 2011. "But if the goal was to end transnational jihadism, then it's a total failure," he said.

RISE OF IS
Though the United States, and the broader Western world, has seen no attack on the scale of 9/11 in subsequent years, analysts say that should not be used to claim the "war on terror"



has been a success. "The objectives that it set for itself were unachievable. Terrorism cannot be defeated. The threat is constantly evolving," said Assaf Moghadam, senior researcher at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel. The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) estimated in 2018 that the number of active terror groups was 67, its highest level since 1980.

'THREAT HAS METASTASISED'
The nature of the threat has transformed since 9/11 when jihadist terror essentially meant Al-Qaeda under the charismatic leadership of bin Laden. But then IS emerged and various branches pledging allegiance to IS or Al-Qaeda. According to Moghadam, some terror figures

have now "become serious political actors". "You're not just talking about a small number of people that we can put on the terrorism watchlist. The threat has metastasised. You have a greater number of regimes in geographically dispersed places facing challenges of violent extremism."

'SHIFTED PRIORITIES'
While in 2001 it was clear that terrorism was enemy number one of the United States and its allies, tensions have since grown with Iran, Russia and above all China. Neither Al-Qaeda nor IS may have the means to stage attacks in the West in the near future like those against Paris on November 13, 2015 that were claimed by IS. But the police and intelligence services are faced with so-called "lone wolves" and other isolated militants, often from the country they strike, radicalised on the internet and who kill blindly, in the name of a jihadist group, with a knife, a gun or a vehicle. And the future threat may not always come from Islamist radicals drawing inspiration from the Middle East but from extreme right-wingers and white supremacists who look no further than the West.

SOURCE: AFP

PURGE ON HONG KONG POLITICIANS 'Patriot' body removes opposition MP from office

AFP, Hong Kong

A powerful new Hong Kong committee tasked with vetting politicians and officials for their loyalty disqualified an opposition lawmaker for the first time yesterday, as authorities purge its institutions of anyone deemed disloyal to Beijing.

Cheng Chung-tai, one of just two opposition figures left in the city's legislature, was deemed disloyal on the basis of his previous statements and behaviour, chief secretary John Lee, who heads the vetting committee, told reporters. "To those who pretend to... bear allegiance to the government, I will not be deceived by their flowery speeches and their attempts to sugarcoat," Lee said, adding Cheng had "lost his seat with immediate effect."

Lee did not detail what specifically Cheng had said or done that had led to his disqualification. China is rapidly recasting Hong Kong in its own authoritarian image in the wake of huge democracy protests two years ago.

It has blanketed the business hub in a national security law that has criminalised much dissent and rolled out a campaign to ensure only so-called "patriots" can play a role in its politics. That campaign has included a sweeping overhaul of the city's already limited elections, drastically reducing the number of directly elected seats and empowering a new committee to vet anyone for their political loyalty.



AUGUST 27

2001 - An Israeli missile attack killed Abu Ali Mustafa, leader of Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine, in West Bank.
2003 - Mars passed 34.65m miles from Earth, the closest such encounter since the Stone Age.
2006 - Comair Flight 5191 crashes on takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Kentucky bound Atlanta, killing 49 of the 50 people onboard.

SOURCE: WEBSITES

LED streetlights contribute to insect population declines

AFP, Washington

Streetlights -- particularly those that use white light-emitting diodes (LEDs) -- not only disrupt insect behavior but are also a culprit behind their declining numbers, a new study carried out in southern England showed Wednesday.

Artificial lights at night had been identified as a possible factor behind falling insect populations around the world, but the topic had been under-researched.

To address the question, scientists compared 26 roadside sites consisting of either hedgerows or grass verges that were lit by streetlights, against an equal number of nearby identical sites that were unlit.

They also examined a site with one unlit and two lit sections, all of which were similar in their vegetation.

The team chose moth caterpillars as a proxy for nocturnal insects more broadly, because they remain within a few meters

of where they hatched during the larval stage of their lives, before they acquire the ability to fly.

The team either struck the hedges with sticks so that the caterpillars fell out, or swept the grass with nets to pick them up.

The results were eye-opening, with a 47 percent reduction in insect population at the hedgerow sites and 37 percent reduction at the roadside grassy areas.

"We were really quite taken aback by just how stark it was," lead author Douglas Boyes, of the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, told AFP, adding the team had expected a more modest decline of around 10 percent.

"We consider it most likely that it's due to females, mums, not laying eggs in these areas," he said.

The lighting also disturbed their feeding behavior: when the team weighed the caterpillars, they found that those in the lighted areas were heavier.

Raise bar on cybersecurity

Biden tells tech bosses after ransomware attacks on major infrastructure

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden gathered Wednesday with business and government leaders to discuss improving cybersecurity following high-profile attacks that raised questions about the vulnerability of so-called critical infrastructure.

Biden and key cabinet officials hosted chief executives of Apple, Google, Amazon and Microsoft, along with leaders from the finance and utilities sectors.

The gathering comes after hacks and data breaches that have targeted a major US oil pipeline,

a meatpacking company and the Microsoft Exchange email system, as well as ransomware attacks hitting various sectors.

"I've invited you all here today because you have the power and the capacity and responsibility, I believe, to raise the bar on cybersecurity," Biden said.

After the talks, major tech companies, including three global leaders in cloud computing, announced training programs and investments in cybersecurity.

Microsoft, for example, plans to inject \$20 billion into its cybersecurity efforts over five years,

as well as "\$150 million to help US government agencies upgrade protections", according to a tweet from CEO Satya Nadella.

Amazon promised in a statement to make its security training for employees available to the general public, and Google said it will invest \$10 billion over five years to help "secure the software supply chain".

The latest attacks, which affected Microsoft email servers and the widely deployed SolarWinds security software, raise questions about protecting 16 "critical infrastructure" sectors including energy, utilities, defense, food and manufacturing.

**ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka- 1208



INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Essential Drugs Company Limited invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F© Dhaka by Air & Chittagong by Sea basis:

S.L No.	Tender No & Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/15/2021-2021 dated 26/08/2021	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: (specification as per tender schedule): 01. Sodium Lauryl Sulphate BP 02. Cetirizine HCL BP 03. Ibuprofen BP 04. Neomycin Sulphate BP 05. Becitracin Zinc BP 06. Gentian Violet Powder USP	Tk. 1500.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 18.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 22/09/2021 At 11.00 AM Opening : 22/09/2021 At 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

Essential Drugs Company Limited authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

General Manager
Procurement.
For : Managing Director

**Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.**
ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৩য় তলা), ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।
Web site : www.dpdco.gov.bd



Memo No: 87.402.105.00.00.182.2021.1044 Date: 26.08.2021

"TIME EXTENSION NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER"

The Following date of the below mentioned tender is hereby extended as shown below:

Sl. No. in the IFB	Item	Description						
4.	Invitation for Bids for (Package-1: Lot-1)	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02(Two) New 132/33 kV, 80/120 MVA and 33/11 kV, 28/35 MVA GIS Substation at Mohammadi Steel and Shyampur including civil works with source cable on Turnkey basis						
5.	Invitation for Bids (IFB) No	87.139.103.00.00.2021.38 Date: 06.06.2021						
10.	Deadline for submission of Bid, Time and Place	<table><thead><tr><th>Original</th><th>Extended</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Date: September 06, 2021, Time: 11 : 00 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time)</td><td>Date: September 15, 2021, Time: 12 : 00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Address: Biddut Bhaban (3rd Floor), Office of the Superintending Engineer (Contract & Procurement Circle, DPDC), 1-Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh Email: cscsg@dpdc.org.bd; Mobile: +8801730335207; +8801730335268</td></tr></tbody></table>	Original	Extended	Date: September 06, 2021, Time: 11 : 00 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time)	Date: September 15, 2021, Time: 12 : 00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)	Address: Biddut Bhaban (3 rd Floor), Office of the Superintending Engineer (Contract & Procurement Circle, DPDC), 1-Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh Email: cscsg@dpdc.org.bd ; Mobile: +8801730335207; +8801730335268	
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All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

(Md. Asaduzzaman)
Deputy Secretary
&
Company Secretary
Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.