

TIES BETWEEN IS AND TALIBAN

What is Islamic State-Khorasan?

Months after the Islamic State declared a caliphate in Iraq and Syria in 2014, breakaway fighters from the Pakistani Taliban joined militants in Afghanistan to form a regional chapter. The group was formally acknowledged by the central Islamic State leadership the next year as it sunk roots in northeastern Afghanistan, particularly Kunar, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces. It also managed to set up sleeper cells in other parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, including Kabul, according to United Nations monitors. Latest estimates of its strength vary from several thousand active fighters to as low as 500, according to a UN Security Council report released last month. "Khorasan" is a historical name for the region, taking in parts of what is today Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

What kind of attacks has it carried out?

The Islamic State's Afghanistan-Pakistan chapter has been responsible for some of the deadliest attacks of recent years. It has massacred civilians in both countries, at mosques, shrines, public squares and even hospitals. The group has especially targeted Muslims from sects it considers heretical, including Shias.

What is IS-Khorasan's relationship with the Taliban?

While both groups are hardline Sunni Islamist militants, there is no love lost between them. They have differed on the minutiae of religion and strategy, while claiming to be the true flag-bearers of jihad. That tussle has led to bloody fighting between the two, with the Taliban emerging largely victorious after 2019 when IS-Khorasan failed to secure territory. In a sign of the enmity between the two jihadist groups, IS statements have referred to the Taliban as apostates.

How has IS reacted to the Taliban victory in Afghanistan?

Not well. Islamic State had been highly critical of the deal last year between Washington and the Taliban that led to the agreement for withdrawing foreign troops, accusing the latter of abandoning the jihadist cause. Following the Taliban's lightning takeover of Afghanistan, a number of jihadist groups around the world congratulated them -- but not IS. One IS commentary published after the fall of Kabul accused the Taliban of betraying jihadists with the US withdrawal deal and vowed to continue its fight.



Afghan evacuees arrive at Incheon International Airport outside Seoul yesterday, following their departure from Kabul via Pakistan.

PHOTO: AFP

THE WAR ON TERROR 20 YEARS ON

A 'total failure' for the West

AFP, Paris

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.

"But if the goal was to end transnational jihadism, then it's a total failure," he said.

Today, jihadist terrorism has transformed into a more global threat, posed by disparate groups and individuals around the world.

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.

The number of fighters varied between 100,000 and 230,000, a 270-per cent increase over the 2001 estimates.

A watershed event was the emergence of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria which was hostile to al-Qaeda and whose influence grew as that of the bin Laden network waned following his death.

Given the vast resources devoted to it, the outcome of the war on terror has been disastrous, partly due to factors seen by some as major errors, notably the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that ousted Saddam Hussein.

"It did allow AQ (Al-Qaeda) to resurrect itself, which laid the ground for the Islamic State to emerge," said Seth Jones, director of the international security program at CSIS.

Experts say the strategy relied on head-on confrontation without sufficiently taking into account the breeding grounds of jihadism -- war, chaos, bad

governance, corruption.

"Conflicts like the one in Syria can radicalise and mobilise thousands of militants in a short time period and there is little the outside world can do about it," said Tore Hamming, a fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation.

"Arguably the biggest problem is not military," Hamming said. "One of the strongest mechanisms to prevent recruitment to Islamic militancy is providing people better alternatives. Weapons do not do that."

Times have changed for the West as well. While in 2001 it was clear that terrorism was enemy number one of the West, tensions have since grown with Iran, Russia and above all China.

"The US has shifted its priorities from countering terrorist groups overseas to dealing with the Chinese first, then the Russians and the Iranians," said Seth Jones.



Kabul blasts Biden-Israel PM meet

REUTERS, Washington

The first White House meeting between President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was postponed until today, overshadowed by suicide bombings near Kabul airport during a chaotic US evacuation mission from Afghanistan.

Two deadly explosions occurred yesterday just hours before Biden and Bennett were due to meet for talks in Washington aimed at resetting the tone of US-Israeli relations and searching for common ground on Iran despite differences on how to deal with its nuclear program.

The two leaders will try to turn the page on years of tensions between Bennett's predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu, who was close to former President Donald Trump, and the last Democratic administration led by Barack Obama with Biden as his vice president.

The meeting, the first since the two men took office, was originally delayed until later in the day while Biden held consultations about the explosions in Kabul. But as the US death toll mounted, US and Israeli officials said the meeting had been called off for the day. The timing of the meeting today was not yet disclosed.

The Afghan minister who became a bicycle courier in Germany

REUTERS, Leipzig

Sayed Sadaat used to be communications minister in the Afghan government before moving to Germany last September in the hope of a better future. Now he is a delivery man in the eastern city of Leipzig.

He said some at home criticised him for taking such a job after having served in the government for two years, leaving office in 2018. But for him now, a job is a job.

"I have nothing to feel guilty about," the 49-year-old said, standing in his orange uniform next to his bike. "I hope other politicians also follow the same path, working with the public rather than just hiding."

His story has gained particular prominence with the chaos unfolding at home after the Taliban takeover. Family and friends of his also want to leave - hoping joining the thousands of others on evacuation flights or trying to find other routes out.

But even with his background, Saadat struggled to find a job in Germany that



matched his experience. With degrees in IT and telecom, Saadat had hoped to find work in a related field. But with no German, his chances were slim.

"The language is the most important part," said Sadaat, who also holds British citizenship.

Every day he does four hours of German at a language school before starting a six-hour evening shift delivering meals for Lieferando, where he started this summer.

"The first few days were exciting but difficult," he said, describing the challenge of learning to cycle in the city traffic.

US won't back off

Harris ends Asia tour with fresh jab at China over South China Sea

AFP, Hanoi

Vice President Kamala Harris launched a new broadside against China as she ended her Southeast Asian tour in Hanoi yesterday, warning the US would continue to push back against Beijing's claims in disputed Asian waters.

The comments came on the final day of a regional trip in which Washington has sought to reset relations in Asia after the turbulent Donald Trump years and stress its commitment to Southeast Asian allies.

During the trip, Harris had already accused Beijing twice of bullying its neighbours in the resource-rich South



China Sea -- and yesterday she again took aim at the Asian giant.

"We're going to speak up when there are actions that Beijing takes that threaten the rules-based international order... such as activity in the South China Sea," Harris said.

"Freedom of navigation... is a vital

issue for this region."

Harris yesterday insisted that the US did "not seek conflict" with Beijing, but it would "do what we can to make sure that we stay committed to our partners" on issues such as the South China Sea.

Four Southeast Asian states including Vietnam have competing claims over the waterway through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually.

China has been accused of deploying military hardware there, and ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision that rejected its historical claim over most of the waters.



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

Size- 6 x 4 col.



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.dpdc.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.