

Distrust persists as some Afghan women return to work

AFP, Kabul

Under their previous reign, they shocked the world by brutally oppressing women and girls. Now, back in power 20 years after a US invasion ousted them, the Taliban have promised a softer brand of rule, pledging that women will be allowed to work.

Some women, particularly those in the health and education sectors, say they have continued to go to work in the weeks since the Islamist militants took over Kabul on August 15, following a lightning offensive that culminated days ahead of the US pullout.

Under the Taliban's former regime, women were not officially barred from all professions. But by professing to rule within the limits of sharia, the Taliban made it very difficult in practice for them to access most jobs.

Last week, Doha-based Taliban spokesman Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai told reporters that women had an "innate right" to work, study and participate in politics. But he also told BBC Pashto in an interview that there "may not" be a place for women in the cabinet of any future government or any other top post.

The movement's acting higher education minister has said women will be allowed to study at university -- but that there will be a ban on mixed classes. But gender separation remained the norm in many Afghans' lives even under the former government, with girls and boys segregated in primary and secondary schools.

Yesterday, an Afghan morning show on the country's leading television channel, TOLO TV, has resumed broadcasting -- with a female host -- according to a company executive.

For now, women have little choice but to wait and see what the Taliban will do once they form a government and start to rule.

A female English teacher at a Kabul high school, who teaches boys, said: "I don't know what they will allow me to do."



A member of the Taliban watches as Afghan women hold placards during a protest in Herat, yesterday. The woman said they were willing to accept the all-encompassing burqa if their daughters could still go to school under Taliban rule.

PHOTO: AFP

'Feelings of pain and anger'

Most Afghan allies left behind as blame game begins over turbulent US exit from Afghanistan

AGENCIES

Most Afghan allies seeking to flee with the US withdrawal were unable to do so, an official acknowledged Wednesday, as the United States began to wrestle with painful choices in the chaotic final days of the war.

President Joe Biden's administration says the victorious Taliban have promised to keep letting Afghans leave -- but many who worked for the United States over its 20-year mission fear retribution.

"These have been incredibly emotional and trying days, and indeed years," said General Mark Milley, the top US military officer.

"We are all conflicted with feelings of pain and anger, sorrow and sadness, combined with pride and resilience," he said.

A senior State Department official vowed to keep working to help everyone leave.

The United States in the final days of the war airlifted more than 123,000 people out of Kabul's airport, including US citizens and interpreters and others who supported the US mission and are eligible for a special visa to immigrate.

Biden has hailed the airlift as unprecedented, but the State Department official acknowledged that most Afghan visa applicants and their families did not make it.

"I would say it's the majority of them," the



official said.

He declined to give exact numbers. The White House said in early August that some 20,000 Afghans were seeking to emigrate through the visa program, meaning more than 100,000 people when including families.

The chaotic end to America's longest war has sparked the biggest crisis of President Joe Biden's seven months in the White House, finger-pointing within the administration and questions about who, if anyone, would be held responsible.

For months, military officials had urged the US State Department to convince other countries to take Afghans at risk from Taliban retaliation. They had largely failed to secure agreements with other countries, prompting officials across the US government to rush to try to find space for the evacuees.

Frustrated and angry, officials at the Pentagon have privately blamed the lack of urgency leading up to the airlift on the State and Homeland Security departments, who in turn have blamed the White House for slow decision-making.

"Finger-pointing is an ugly Washington sport ... in this case, fingers could be pointed in all directions and probably be right in each case," said Dan Fried, a former senior US diplomat now at the Atlantic Council think tank.

"A failure like this is collective. Everybody screwed up," Fried added.

Some Republicans have pointed fingers at Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken as the ones most responsible for setting the conditions for a chaotic evacuation, and have demanded their departure.



Japan princess to marry her love despite controversy

AFP, Tokyo

The course of true love never did run smooth, but after public controversy and a wedding delay, Japan's Princess Mako is reportedly set to tie the knot and move to America.

The daughter of Japan's crown prince and niece of Emperor Naruhito has endured years of sniping and stalling over her plans to marry sweetheart Kei Komuro.

The pair have now decided to wed without some traditional ceremonies and reject a payout that usually goes to female royals marrying out of the royal family.

Japan's imperial succession rules mean that 29-year-old Mako will lose her title after marriage to a commoner.

But Komuro has still been heavily scrutinised over allegations that his mother borrowed money from a former fiancé and failed to repay it.

The pair postponed their wedding, and Komuro moved to the US for law school in a move that was widely seen as a bid to defuse the negative attention.

Crown Prince Akishino last year said that he supported his daughter's marriage, but that she needed to win the public's "understanding".

She is also said to be planning to move to the United States after her wedding.



ATranded cars are seen on a street affected by floodwater in Brooklyn, New York, USA, early yesterday. Flooding killed at least 13 people, swept away cars, submerged subway lines and grounded flights in New York and New Jersey as the remnants of Hurricane Ida brought torrential rains to the area.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Climate co-op at risk over political tension

China FM warns US envoy Kerry

REUTERS, Shanghai

Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi has warned the United States that political tension between Beijing and Washington could undermine efforts by the world's top two sources of greenhouse gas to co-operate in the fight against climate change.

The United States, which has resumed its role in global climate diplomacy after a four-year hiatus under President Donald Trump, has long hoped to keep climate issues separate from its disputes with China on issues such as trade, human rights and the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.

China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told US climate envoy John Kerry that the United States saw the two sides' joint efforts against global warming as an "oasis", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"But surrounding the oasis is a desert, and the oasis could be desertified very soon," he said, speaking by video link on Wednesday. "China-US climate co-operation cannot be separated from the wider environment of China-US relations.

Kerry is in the northern city of Tianjin for face-to-face talks with Xie Zhenhua, China's special climate envoy, on the countries' joint response to the climate crisis.

In a separate video meeting with Kerry, Chinese vice premier Han Zheng urged the United States to "create a good atmosphere of co-operation", state news agency Xinhua said yesterday.

India cases hit 2 months high

AGENCIES

India reported the biggest single-day rise in Covid-19 cases in two months yesterday, as the government worries about the virus spreading from the most-affected Kerala state, schools reopening, and the start of the festival season.

Densely populated Kerala, on India's southern tip, accounted for nearly 70% of the 47,092 new infections and a third of deaths, a week after it celebrated its biggest festival during which family and social gatherings were common.

"With cases rising in Kerala, adequate steps should be taken to contain the inter-state spread of Covid-19," Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a statement after speaking with his state counterparts in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which border Kerala.

As more than two-thirds of Indians already have Covid-fighting antibodies, mainly through natural infection, experts think another national surge

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

EU says no urgent need for vaccine boosters

WHO launches pandemic data hub in Berlin

N Korea rejects Chinese vaccines: Unicef

in cases will be less deadly than the last one in April and May when tens of thousands of people died and hospitals ran out of beds and oxygen.

The federal government, nevertheless, has warned that like in Kerala, the rest of India could also see a rise in infections around the festival season starting this month and ending in early November, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said Wednesday that fully vaccinated people do not urgently need booster jabs against Covid-19, but an

extra dose for people with depressed immune systems should be considered. Scientific data had not proved the need for a booster, the World WHO said on August 18.

WHO on Wednesday launched a global data hub in Berlin to analyse information on emerging pandemic threats, filling the gaps exposed by Covid-19. The data hub is set to bring together experts from various disciplines in Berlin to analyse data quickly in order to predict, prevent, detect, prepare for and respond to risks worldwide, reports AFP.

North Korea has rejected around three million doses of a Chinese Covid-19 vaccine, suggesting they should be given to countries in greater need, Unicef said yesterday.

Pyeongyang insists it has yet to see any cases of the virus -- a claim that analysts doubt -- but it has paid a huge economic price for the blockade, with the regime admitting in June it was tackling a "food crisis".

MORE NEWS

US wasted 15m Covid doses since March: report

The United States has thrown away at least 15.1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines since March 1, according to a report by NBC News. The figure is far higher than previously thought and probably still an undercount, because it is based on self-reported data from pharmacies, states and other providers, NBC said, quoting a response it received to a request for public data. At least seven states are missing from the figures, as well as major federal agencies. Reasons for dose wastage vary and include cracked vials, errors in diluting vaccines, freezer malfunctions and more doses in a vial than people who want them, with a limited window of a few hours to use a vial once it is punctured.

Rebel attack on govt stronghold kills 65 in Yemen

Sixty-five combatants -- 22 pro-government soldiers and 43 Huthi rebels -- have been killed after Yemen's Huthi rebels launched a renewed offensive on Marib, the last government stronghold in the country's oil-rich north, a military official said yesterday. The Iran-backed rebels attacked pro-government positions south of the strategic city, making progress despite losing dozens of fighters in coalition air strikes. It was the Huthis' first major offensive on Marib, the key to controlling the region, since June, when 111 fighters on both sides died in three days of clashes.

China bans reality talent shows in showbiz crackdown

China banned reality talent programmes yesterday and ordered broadcasters to promote more masculine representations of men, in a wide-ranging crackdown on "immoral" pop culture Beijing believes is leading young people astray. Talent shows that put hundreds of aspiring young performers through rigorous boot camps and subject them to public votes have become massively popular in China, sparking criticism over obsessive fans and poor role models.

Faced with falling birth rates, Chinese authorities have tried to instill traditional masculine values in the country's youth by ramping up gym classes and criticising male entertainers who model the effeminate looks of Korean pop idols.

India locks down Kashmir after death of separatist leader

Indian Kashmir veteran separatist politician Syed Ali Shah Geelani, 91, was laid to rest early yesterday in Srinagar, as authorities blanketed the region with troops and clamped down on communications to prevent protests.

Geelani died on Wednesday. Among the most prominent political leaders in Kashmir, Geelani for years led an umbrella alliance of secessionists known as the Hurriyat Conference. But the group split in 2003, when hardliners led by Geelani, who advocated Kashmir's merger with Pakistan, walked out after moderates decided to hold talks with New Delhi. He was kept under house arrest more than a decade after leading several anti-India protests.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



SEPTEMBER 03

1783 - Treaty of Paris signed in Paris ends the American Revolutionary War between Great Britain and United States of America.

1939 - Britain declares war on Germany after invasion of Poland. France follows 6 hours later quickly joined by Australia, New Zealand, South Africa & Canada.

1976 - The US spacecraft Viking 2 landed on Mars and began sending back photographs.

1994 - Russia and China ended decades of confrontation and agreed to cease keeping nuclear missiles aimed at each other.

SOURCE: WEBSITES

৪র্থ বাংলাদেশ রোবট অলিম্পিয়াড ২০২১

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জুনিয়র: ৭-১২ বছর বয়সের শিক্ষার্থীরা।
জ্যুনিয়র: ১৩-১৮ বছর বয়সের শিক্ষার্থীরা।

গ্রুপ:

- ১) ক্রিয়েটিভ ক্যাটাগরি (এক দলে সর্বোচ্চ ৩ জন)
- ২) রোবট ইন মুভি (এক দলে সর্বোচ্চ ২ জন)
- ৩) রোবট প্যাদারিং (একক প্রতিযোগিতা)
- ৪) রোবটিক কুইজ (একক প্রতিযোগিতা)
- ৫) রোবটিক্স কুইজ (এক দলে সর্বোচ্চ ৩ জন)

ক্যাটাগরি:

আয়োজক: ICT, BDO, BDO SN, বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সংশ্লিষ্ট: ICT, BDO, BDO SN, বাংলাদেশ সরকার