

MORE NEWS

Six Palestinians escape Israeli jail, including top ex-militant

Six Palestinians broke out of an Israeli prison yesterday through a tunnel dug beneath a sink, triggering a massive manhunt for the group that includes a prominent ex-militant. The Israel Prison Service said an alert was sounded around 3:00 am by locals who spotted "suspicious figures" outside the Gilboa prison in the country's north. The group includes Zakaria Zubeidi, a former militant leader from the flashpoint city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the IPS confirmed in a statement. In footage that recalled the iconic 1994 prison escape film "The Shawshank Redemption," the service released a video which showed agents inspecting a hole just outside the prison walls.

Libyan dictator's son Saadi Gaddafi freed from jail

Saadi Gaddafi, a son of Libya's late dictator Moamer Gaddafi who was overthrown and killed in a 2011 uprising, has been freed from jail, according to the interim government. Saadi — the strongman's third son, now aged 47 — was known for his playboy lifestyle and briefly played as a professional footballer in Italy. "Saadi Moamer Gaddafi has been freed from prison," following a court ruling several years ago, a justice ministry source said late Sunday — without saying whether he was still in the country. "Saadi (Gaddafi) was handed over to his family in accordance with legal procedures," the Government of National Unity confirmed. Several media reports suggested Saadi had already taken a flight to Turkey.



Mexican police break up US-bound migrant caravan

Mexican police dispersed on Sunday a caravan of about 400 mainly Central American migrants who had been hoping to walk to the US border. Ending the fourth such procession in a week, police intercepted the group as it prepared to leave the town of Huixtla in southern Chiapas state, AFP observed. It was made up mainly of people from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and Venezuela. Police blocked streets that the travelers would need to use to get out of the town onto a northbound highway, making some arrests while others from the procession fled further into Huixtla. The police also took up positions on the highway itself to keep the caravan from reforming.

Russian trolls targeting Western media: UK research

Western media news websites are being hijacked by pro-Russian trolls to spread propaganda and disinformation supporting the Kremlin, according to research published by a British university yesterday. The Crime and Research Security Institute at Cardiff University said it had unearthed evidence from 32 major news outlets in 16 countries that have been targeted via manipulation of their readers' comments sections.

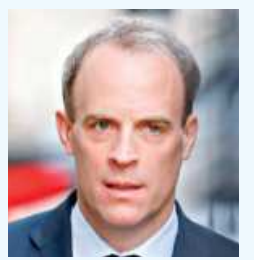
SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Women gather to demand their rights under the Taliban rule during a protest in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan yesterday. In a lengthy document issued by the Taliban's education authority on Sunday, the Islamist group ordered that women attending private Afghan universities must wear an abaya robe and niqab covering most of the face, and classes must be segregated by sex -- or at least divided by a curtain.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Quotes of the day



The sentencing of Maria Kolesnikova and Maksim Znakh shows the Belarusian authorities continuing their assault on the defenders of democracy and freedom. Locking up political opponents will only deepen the pariah status of the Lukashenko regime.

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DOMINIC RAAB CONDEMNS THE JAILING OF OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS IN BELARUS AFTER THEY LED PROTESTS AGAINST PRESIDENT ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO LAST YEAR

1,000 stuck in Afghanistan

Reports NYT as Taliban delay flight clearance; UN says the Islamist group pledged safety for humanitarian workers

AGENCIES

The Taliban are preventing around 1000 people including dozens of American citizens and Afghans holding visas to the US or other countries, from leaving Afghanistan, US media reports said on Sunday. Multiple planes are waiting for clearance for the departure from the group, The New York Times (NYT) reported and added that the holdup is caused due to ongoing negotiations between the US and Taliban.

This comes as the United States completed its withdrawal last week, after the Taliban's swift takeover of Kabul, following an offensive that saw the rapid fall of the Afghan government forces.

US media reports said, the planes stuck in Afghanistan are not currently loaded and the passengers are being held nearby as the Taliban won't let them inside the airport.

A Pentagon official concerned with evacuation operations said the reason the Taliban wants to prevent these people from leaving is likely because they intend to punish them for their cooperation with the US. If

the Taliban really are using people as a bargaining chip, former senior Pentagon Mick Mulroy said that "is unacceptable."

Meanwhile, senior Republican on the US House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael McCaul told Fox News that the Taliban has blocked Americans aboard six planes at Mazar-i-Sharif International Airport



from leaving the country while they make demands from the US.

"State has cleared these flights, and the Taliban will not let them leave the airport," McCaul said, adding that he believed the problem was "turning into a hostage situation." McCaul said the Taliban wanted "something in exchange" for approving takeoff of

the planes and that they are seeking "full recognition from the United States of America."

Last Friday, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken had said that the United States is in "constant contact" with Americans remaining in Afghanistan who still wish to leave the country.

The United Nations humanitarian chief met Sunday with leaders of the Taliban, who pledged to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers and aid access in Afghanistan, a UN spokesman said.

Martin Griffiths was in the Afghan capital on Sunday and is to have several days of meetings with Taliban leadership amid a looming humanitarian disaster in the country newly under the control of the hardline Islamists.

"The authorities pledged that the safety and security of humanitarian staff, and humanitarian access to people in need, will be guaranteed and that humanitarian workers — both men and women — will be guaranteed freedom of movement," a statement from UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

SUPPORT FOR MUSLIMS

Afghan factions divided over Jammu & Kashmir

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

A Taliban spokesman has said the group reserves the right to speak out in support of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, remarks that run counter to senior Taliban leader Anas Haqqani's contention that the organisation would not interfere in Kashmir.

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen was quoted by BBC Urdu, in a report published online on Thursday, as saying that the group does not have a policy of taking up arms against any country. In this context, he referred to the terms of the agreement signed by Taliban and the US in February 2020.

However, Shaheen said that the Taliban, as Muslims, have the right to raise their voice for Muslims in Kashmir, India or any other country. "We will raise our voice and say that Muslims are your own people, your own citizens. They are entitled to equal rights under your laws," he was quoted as saying.

Shaheen's remarks are completely contrary to the stance taken by Haqqani Network leader Anas Haqqani, a member of the Taliban's 14-member negotiating team, in an interview aired by News18 channel on Wednesday. Haqqani had said in the interview that Kashmir was not an issue for Afghanistan. "We have a clear policy that when something is not an issue for our country, we cannot interfere in another country," he had said.

He had also described reports about the Haqqani Network supporting Pakistan-based groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which are active in Kashmir, as "propaganda."

There was no immediate response from Indian officials to Shaheen's remarks. As reported by Hindustan Times, Haqqani has been engaged in an outreach towards India, along with senior Taliban leader Sher Mohammed Abbas Stanekzai, who is expected to be given a senior position in the government to be formed by the Taliban.

A plan divorced from reality

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university students in the coverage.

In a latest development, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday reiterated that those aged 12 and above too will be jabbed soon if the WHO and local expert committee approve it.

The development came following the government's decision to bring school and college students back to the classrooms from September 12 -- almost 18 months after the closure due to the pandemic.

But with the vaccine supply still plagued with uncertainty and over two crore people including the vulnerable ones awaiting their first jab weeks after registration, the plan to inoculate students aged 12-17 may look rosy but it is not feasible at the moment.

"We do not have enough vaccines in stock. Vaccine supply is not smooth yet. Many people are waiting to get their first shot. The vulnerable groups are yet to be vaccinated. In this situation, the desire to expand the vaccine coverage down to age 12 does not seem viable," Be-Nazir Ahmed, former DGHS director, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ahmed, a member of National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group, also said the committee was yet to give any opinion in favour of vaccinating children aged 12-17.

Muzaherul Huq, former regional advisor for South East Asia at the World Health Organization, said schools across the world reopened following the health guidelines, not after vaccinating.

Vaccinated individuals also need to maintain health guidelines, he said. "The focus should be on following the health guidelines."

Huq added that the government should concentrate on vaccinating the WHO-recommended priority groups that include the aged people with comorbidities.

"If we fail to protect the vulnerable age groups, then the infection and death rates will not come down," he added.

At a daily briefing on Sunday, Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee, said currently there is no plan in place to vaccinate individuals under 18.

The country has suffered

frequent hiccups in its regular mass inoculation campaigns mainly due to a dearth of doses caused by a yawning gap between commitments and compliance in vaccine supply.

The regular vaccine campaign remained suspended for around a month due to a sudden suspension of vaccine supply from Serum Institute of India.

Besides, the government also did not get the promised amount of vaccines from Covax, a global vaccine facility.

It also could not continue the special vaccination that started on August 7 because of a shortage of shots.

Bangladesh purchased six crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine from China and is supposed to get 6.8 crore doses from Covax this year. Besides, it bought three crore doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines from Serum Institute, but so far received only 70 lakh doses with the last consignment arriving in March.

"We have purchased a good amount of vaccines but received very little," said a DGHS official.

The country has so far received 3,90,25,530 doses of vaccines of different brands, according to the DGHS.

Around 1.90 crore people have got their first dose while around 85 lakh people got both doses.

Only around five percent of the target -- 80 percent of the total population aged 18 and above -- has been met.

Health officials said currently they have less than a crore of vaccine doses in stock, adding that around 50 lakh people, who got the first jab during the special drive last month, will start getting their second dose from today.

"It is not possible to start vaccinating students aged below 18 right now. We do not have that many doses," said a top DGHS official wishing not to be named.

He said some countries are administering the Pfizer vaccine among the 12-17 age group.

"We have around 10 lakh Pfizer doses in hand and around 50 lakh doses will arrive soon. But we cannot administer the vaccine across the country as we do not have the required infrastructure," said the top official.

DGHS officials said currently they have the capacity of administering the Pfizer vaccine in 22 districts, including Dhaka, as those districts have the capacity to store the ultra-low temperature vaccine like Pfizer.

A Unicef report on March 2 noted that 14 countries worldwide remained largely closed from March 2020 to February 2021. Of those countries, Panama has kept schools closed for the most days, followed by El Salvador, Bangladesh, and Bolivia.

El Salvador resumed in-person classes in schools on April 6 and Panama opened schools on May 31, leaving Bangladesh with the unenviable tag as a country with the longest closure of schools.

Experts said regardless of the vaccination status, schools should open by ensuring the health guidelines.

Their pleas finally

FROM PAGE 1

The UAE has made the rapid PCR test result mandatory for passengers flying in from Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Indonesia.

Of them, only Bangladesh and Nigeria are yet to set up the testing facilities at the airports.

Most of the stranded expatriates, including traders and workers, have already been inoculated with the full dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. "It is because of the rapid PCR test that we cannot fly," Salauddin added.

"We want the RT-PCR labs to be set up at the shortest possible time," Belal said.

Yesterday, the stranded UAE residents staged a sit-in in front of the National Press Club in the capital. This comes after they formed human chains, held press conferences and submitted memorandums to the government to press home their demand.

Their demands were finally heard as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the cabinet meeting yesterday ordered immediate arrangements for PCR testing at the three international airports.

"Precise direction was given to arrange necessary steps within two or three days to install PCR testing facilities at the airports," said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam after the meeting yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
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স্মারক নং উপস্বাস্থ্যকর্মঃ/সিংগাইর/মানিক/পধ্য,মনোহারী,লিঙ্গেন্দ্র/২০২১-২০২২/৯৭৬
তারিখঃ ০৫/০৯/২০২১ইং
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮, ২০০৯, ২০১০, ২০১৩ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত ২০১৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬, ২০০৯ অনুসারে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, সিংগাইর, মানিকগঞ্জ এর ২০২১-২০২২ইং অর্থ বৎসরের (ক) পধ্য (খ) অন্যান্য ষ্টেশনারী (মনোহারী মালামাল) এবং (গ) ময়লা কাপড় খোলাই (ইঞ্জি সহ) সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী নিযুক্তির জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/ব্যবসায়ী/কোম্পানির নিকট হতে নিখরাত শর্তাবলী স্বাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।