

MORE NEWS

78 killed in Yemen clashes

Nearly 80 Yemen rebels and pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the northern city of Marib, officials said yesterday, nearly seven years into a war that has triggered a major humanitarian crisis. Scores of rebels were killed in airstrikes after they renewed their attempt to capture the strategic city, the internationally recognised government's last outpost in the north, according to loyalists. "Sixty Huthi rebels were killed in the last 24 hours while 18 pro-government troops were killed and dozens injured in clashes over the past 48 hours," a government military official said.

Indonesia jail fire kills 41

A fire tore through an overcrowded Indonesian prison in the early hours of yesterday when most inmates were asleep, killing 41 people and injuring dozens of others, an official said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze -- which was mostly contained within one block that housed prisoners jailed on drug charges -- at around 3:00 am and evacuated the victims. Authorities were still investigating the cause of the incident at Tangerang Penitentiary, just outside the capital Jakarta, but suspected an electrical fault may have been to blame. The penitentiary department's website showed the jail had just over 2,000 inmates, more than three times as many prisoners than it was designed to hold.

Major Mexico quake kills 1

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Mexico on Tuesday near the Pacific resort city of Acapulco, leaving at least one person dead and shaking buildings in the capital several hundred kilometers away. The epicenter was 11 kilometers southeast of Acapulco in Guerrero state, the National Seismological Service reported. A man was killed when a utility pole fell on him in the nearby city of Coyuca de Benite. Local media said there were no reports of significant destruction.



Russia minister dies during Arctic drills to save man

A Russian government minister, who once served in President Vladimir Putin's security detail, died during exercises in the Arctic yesterday while trying to save the life of a documentary film director, his ministry said. Yevgeny Zinichev, 55, who headed the high-profile emergencies ministry since 2018, was in the remote city of Norilsk to oversee large-scale drills in the region. The ministry said in a statement he died while trying to save Alexander Melnik who had travelled to Norilsk to make a documentary about the Arctic and the Northern Sea Route. It said Melnik had slipped on a wet rock and fallen. "Yevgeny tried to grab Alexander and jumped after him, but unfortunately, they both died after falling from a high cliff into a mountainous river," it said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A member of the Taliban forces points his gun at protesters, as Afghan demonstrators shout slogans during an anti-Pakistan protest, near the Pakistan embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. The phot was released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Not inclusive'

Experts say Taliban's new govt announcement a bad sign as it fails to represent country's diverse groups

AGENCIES

Expectations were building as the Taliban were taking time in announcing a government after taking over the country in a lightning offensive and decimating oppositions on the way.

The cabinet list announced on Tuesday was entirely filled with leaders of the Islamist militant movement, and veterans of a guerrilla war that ended with a Taliban victory last month after two decades of fighting.

World powers have told the Taliban that it needs to have an inclusive government that backs up its pledges of a more conciliatory approach which upholds human rights if it wants peace and development.

Regional analysts also urged them to curb in the global jihadist elements of the movement and promote the nationalistic elements.

But the list of ministers, although interim in nature, didn't go with the expectations.

Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, was named as leader of the new government, while Taliban co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar was named as his deputy.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of the founder of the notorious Haqqani Network, has been named as interior minister.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, son of Mullah Omar, has been named as defence minister. Hedayatullah Badri will be the acting minister of finance, while Amir Khan Muttaqi, a Taliban negotiator in Doha, was named foreign minister.

Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford said many of the appointments involved "old faces".

"It's also important to say that a lot of these names, the vast majority of them are actually Pashtun and are not taking into consideration, arguably critics would say, the vast great ethnic diversity of this country."

Commenting on the Taliban's announcement,

Obaidullah Baheer, of the American University of Afghanistan, said it did not do "their cause for international recognition any favours".

"The amount of time spent wasn't on discussing or negotiating inclusivity or potential power sharing with other political parties. That time was spent on knowing how to split that pie amongst their own ranks," Baheer told Al Jazeera from Kabul.

Yesterday, Afghanistan's last resistance group the National Resistance Front (NRF) denounced the Taliban's new interim government as "illegitimate", after its leader Ahmad Massoud called for a nationwide uprising against the country's Islamist rulers.

"The narrative of a modern Taliban is over... there is no Taliban in favour of an inclusive government," NRF spokesperson Ali Maisam Nazary said.

"This is going to become a pariah government, an illegitimate government... just look at the amount of terrorists in this cabinet. And we expect they are going to reform?"

Nazary said the new government does not represent Afghanistan's diverse ethnic mosaic.

All the top posts went to key leaders from the Taliban and the Haqqani network -- the violent faction known for carrying out some of Afghanistan's bloodiest bombings and suicide attacks in recent years.

By excluding representatives from Afghanistan's many ethnicities -- including its sizeable Shia and Hazara communities, the Taliban "have deepened" social divides, he said.

In the 20 years the Taliban spent as insurgents, Afghan society transformed into a much younger population with a taste for greater freedom, Nazary added.

As a result, the Taliban will struggle to force people into accepting their restrictive interpretation of sharia law.

TALIBAN'S NEW CABINET

India restricts religious festivals

AFP, Mumbai

Indian authorities are restricting major religious festivals that start this week and attract huge crowds, warning that a new Covid-19 wave had already begun in the financial capital Mumbai.

State governments across the country of 1.3 billion people, which saw a devastating coronavirus surge in April-May, are clamping down on mass gatherings.

"The third wave is not coming, it is already here," Mumbai's mayor Kishori Pednekar told reporters on Tuesday.

"We can celebrate festivals later. Let us first prioritise the lives and health of our citizens," added Uddhav Thackeray, the chief minister of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital.

He was speaking ahead of the 11-day Hindu Ganesh Chaturthi festival, which starts today.

The last Covid-19 wave overwhelmed India's hospitals and was known to have killed more than 200,000 people.

NEW COVID SURGE FEARS



It struck after one of the world's biggest religious gatherings, the Kumbh Mela, which attracted some 25 million Hindu pilgrims.

That gathering, large state election rallies and the infectious Delta virus variant -- first detected in India -- were blamed by experts for fuelling the surge.

Authorities said a recent spike in cases in the southern state of Kerala after the Onam festival in August

should be cause for alarm.

But festive crowds have still packed markets in Maharashtra and other states in recent days, ignoring the warnings.

The state government will limit the height of effigies of the elephant-headed god Ganesha to reduce the number of devotees carrying them during the festival. Processions on the festival's first and last days will be banned.

In the neighbouring state of Karnataka, a night curfew will remain in place and districts posting higher positive test levels will be banned from holding Ganesh celebrations.

The southern state of Tamil Nadu has banned public festival celebrations, while the eastern state of West Bengal was expected to impose curbs on the nine-day Durga Puja in October.

India has the world's second-highest known caseload, with more than 33 million infections, and 441,000 deaths.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



SEPTEMBER 09

1776 -- US Congress renames the nation "United States of America". This replaced the term "United Colonies".

1976 - Chairman Mao Zedong, Chinese revolutionary leader, died.

1993 - Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization exchange letters of mutual recognition.

2015 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth becomes longest reigning monarch of United Kingdom.

SOURCE: REUTERS

SHADOW GOVERNMENT 'WAR' CALL

Myanmar cell towers attacked

AFP, Yangon

Protesters have destroyed around a dozen military-owned communications towers in Myanmar, witnesses and reports said yesterday, after the country's self-proclaimed shadow government issued a call for a "defensive war" against the junta.

The country has been in chaos since the military seized power in February, sparking mass pro-democracy rallies followed by a deadly crackdown and renewed fighting with ethnic rebel militias in border areas.

More than 1,000 civilians have been killed and nearly 8,000 arrested, according to local observers.

Protesters said they targeted 11 mobile phone masts belonging to the military-owned Mytel, one of the country's four main cell networks, in the town of Budalin in the central Sagaing region.

While attacks on military-owned infrastructure and businesses have been seen before, Tuesday's spate of blasts comes after a call to arms from the so-called National Unity Government (NUG), which is made up of dissident lawmakers in hiding or exile, many of them from ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party.

NUG acting president Duwa Lashi La on Tuesday urged citizens to target military assets in their areas.

The military authorities -- officially known as the State Administration Council (SAC) -- dismiss the NUG and its affiliates as "terrorists" seeking to bring the country to ruin.

THE HAQQANI NETWORK

Afghanistan's most feared militants

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's interim government in Afghanistan includes two representatives from one of their most feared factions -- the Haqqani network. As expected, they have emerged as key players in the new setup, after the Taliban routed the US-backed Afghan military and captured Kabul on August 15.

Who are the Haqqanis?

The shadowy group was formed by Jalaluddin Haqqani, who gained prominence in the 1980s as a hero of the anti-Soviet jihad. At the time, he was a valuable CIA asset as the United States and its allies such as Pakistan funnelled arms and money to the mujahideen. During that conflict and following the Soviet withdrawal, Jalaluddin Haqqani fostered close ties with foreign jihadists -- including Osama bin Laden. He later allied with the Taliban who took over Afghanistan in 1996, serving as a minister for the Islamist regime until it was toppled by US-led forces in 2001. Jalaluddin Haqqani died after a long illness and his son Sirajuddin formally became the network's chief in 2018. Thanks to their financial and military strength -- and a reputation for ruthlessness -- the Haqqani network is considered semi-autonomous while remaining within the Taliban fold.

Why are they so widely feared?

The Haqqani network is blamed for some of the deadliest and most shocking attacks in Afghanistan during the last two decades. They have been designated a foreign terrorist group by the United States, and are also under United Nations sanctions. The Haqqanis have a reputation for frequently using suicide bombers and have demonstrated the ability to carry out complex, high-casualty assaults on major targets including military installations and embassies. They have also long been suspected of links with the Pakistani military establishment -- US Admiral Mike Mullen described them as a "veritable arm" of Islamabad's intelligence in 2011. Pakistan denies the allegation. The Haqqanis have also hugely contributed to the Taliban's fighting ranks, and are the group's "most combat-ready forces", UN monitors said in a June report. The monitors also described the network as the "primary liaison" between the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

What have they got in the new govt?

Sirajuddin Haqqani has been given one of the highest-profile ministries -- interior. The post would give him control over Afghanistan's entire internal security apparatus. This is a major role change, following years of violent attacks by his group. As interior minister, Sirajuddin will have to deal with the threat of the regional chapter of the Islamic State group, myriad challenges posed by Afghanistan's deep ethnic divides, as well as crime. His uncle Khalil Haqqani has been given the refugees ministry. Sirajuddin and Khalil are both still listed as wanted by the United States, with millions of dollars in bounties on offer.

Quotes of the day



China has a real problem with the Taliban.

So they're going to try to work out some arrangement with the Taliban, I'm sure. As does Pakistan, as does Russia, as does Iran.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



Only God can remove me. I'm only coming out of this jailed, dead or victorious.

BRAZIL PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO REFUSES TO TAKE PART IN 2022 POLLS IF EVM IS USED



The eclaration of a transitional government

without the participation of other groups and yesterday's violence against demonstrators and journalists in Kabul are not signals that give cause for optimism.

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HEIKO MAAS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges

Bridges Division

Bangladesh Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212

www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority.			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director.			
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable.			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of non-consulting services (supply of manpower).			
7	Invitation Ref No.	50.01.0000.856.14.003.21(Part-1)-171			
8	Date	7th September, 2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224333400			
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project.			
14	Tender Package No.	SD3.			
15	Tender package name	Recruitment of outsourcing manpower.			
16	Tender publication date	Date: 9th September, 2021			
17	Tender last selling date	Date:	29th September, 2021	Time:	During office hours
18	Tender closing date and time	Date:	30th September, 2021	Time:	02:30pm
19	Tender opening date and time	Date:	30th September, 2021	Time:	03:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)				
	Selling tender document (principal)	Accounts Section (Room No. 622), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.			
	Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.			
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.			
	Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.			
21	Pre-tender meeting	11:00am, 20th September, 2021			
	Place of pre-tender meeting	Office of the Project Director (Room No. 915), Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of tenderer	i)	General experience: The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer as prime contractor/sub-contractor/management contractor shall be 05 (five) years.		
		ii)	Specific experience: The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in providing Non-Consultant Service (Supply of Manpower) of at least one contract of completed over a period of ten (10) years each with a value of at least of Tk 65.00 lac (sixty-five-lac only) shall be required.		
		iii)	The required average annual turnover of the tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 40.00 (forty) lac over the last three years.		
		iv)	The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 20.00 (twenty) lac.		
23	Brief description of physical services	Supply of non-consultant manpower includes: i) 3 Nos. Driver, ii) 3 Nos. Office Assistant, iii) 1 No. Cleaner, iv) 3 Nos. Security Guard and v) 2 Nos. Office Assistant cum Computer Typist.			
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.			
	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
25	Supply of 3 Nos. Driver, 3 Nos. Office Assistant, 1 No. Cleaner, 3 Nos. Security Guard and 2 Nos. Office Assistant Cum Computer Typist for 42 months (from 01 January, 2022 to 30 June, 2025) for Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project	Dhaka, Narayanganj	1,000.00 (one thousand only)	3,50,000.00 (Tk three lac fifty thousand only)	42 months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
26	Name of official inviting tender	Shafiqul Islam.			
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (Widening of Road and Construction of Elevated Road from Panchabati to Mukterpur Bridge Project).			
28	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.			
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. +880255040374		Mobile: +88-01711-164101	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
Note: Technical & financial envelope shall be submitted separately by the tenderer in an outer envelope.					
Shafiqul Islam Project Director Tel. No. +88-02-55040374 Mobile: +88-01711-164101 E-mail: pdmukterpur@gmail.com					
GD-1607					

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