

Quotes of the day



They talked of an inclusive and representative government, but they are lying. France refuses to recognise or have any type of relationship with this government.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN



We have seen growing evidence that the dangers to our country can come, not only across borders, but from violence that gathers within. There is little cultural overlaps between violent extremists abroad and violent extremists at home... they are children of the same foul spirit.

FORMER US PRESIDENT GEORGE W BUSH



Could Al-Qaeda come back (in Afghanistan)? Yeah... What's the strategy? Every place where Al-Qaeda is, we're going to invade and have troops stay in? C'mon.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



Police personnel carry the coffin of a police officer who died during an attack on Indian security personnel by suspected militants in downtown Srinagar, at the police headquarters in Srinagar, yesterday

PHOTO: AFP

STUDYING AT UNIVERSITIES UNDER TALIBAN RULE

Tough rules set for women

AFP, Kabul

Afghan women will be allowed to attend university as long as they study separately from men, the Taliban's new higher education minister said yesterday.

Women's rights in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed under the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule, though since returning to power last month the hardline Islamists have claimed they will implement a less extreme rule.

But speaking to reporters about the new regime's plans for the country's education, Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani was unapologetic about bringing an end to mixed sex classes.

"We have no problems in ending the mixed-education system," he said. "The people are Muslims and they will accept it."

The Taliban announced earlier this month that women could still study at university if they wore an abaya robe and niqab covering most of the face, with classes segregated by sex -- or at least divided by a curtain.

Haqqani said that Afghanistan's education system had changed greatly since the Taliban's

last time in power, when women were effectively barred from schools and universities.

"Compared to the past the number of educational institutions have increased dramatically," he said.

"This gives us hope for a future, prosperous and self-sufficient Afghanistan... we will continue from where they were left."

Some fear the new rules will exclude women because the universities do not have the resources to provide separate classes.

But Haqqani insisted there were enough female teachers and, where they were not available, alternatives could be found without breaching rules.

"It all depends on the university's capacity," he said. "We can also use male teachers to teach from behind a curtain, or use technology."

The Taliban say they want to distance themselves from the harsher policies of old, when half the population was excluded from work and education.

Under new rules, women may work "in accordance with the principles of Islam", the Taliban have decreed, but few details have yet been given as to what that exactly might mean.

SERVICING NUKE MONITORING CAMERAS

IAEA, Iran reach deal

AFP, Vienna

Iran and the UN nuclear agency said yesterday they have agreed to allow inspectors to service the agency's surveillance equipment as Tehran has restricted access since earlier this year.

"IAEA's inspectors are permitted to service the identified equipment and replace their storage media which will be kept under the joint IAEA and (Iran's) AEOI seals in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The way and the timing are agreed by the two sides," they said in a joint statement.

International Atomic Energy Agency head Rafael Grossi travelled to Iran Saturday for talks, days after the IAEA criticised Tehran for a lack of cooperation.

He met the chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Mohammad Eslami, yesterday.

"The two sides decided to maintain their mutual interactions and meetings at relevant levels," the statement said, adding Grossi planned another visit to Tehran "in the near future".

Grossi's visit comes after talks between major world powers to save Iran's nuclear deal have become deadlocked.

The 2015 deal promised Tehran sanctions relief in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

MORE NEWS

Pilot error likely caused fatal Air India Express crash: report

Pilot error and a failure to follow safety guidelines probably caused the Air India Express crash that killed 21 people last year, the country's worst aviation accident in a decade, investigators said in a report yesterday. The Boeing 737, repatriating Indians stranded in Dubai due to the coronavirus pandemic, overshot the table-top runway and crashed while landing at Calicut International Airport in the southern state of Kerala in heavy rain on Aug 8, 2020. "The probable cause of the accident was the non-adherence to standard operating procedures by the pilot flying," says the report by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, a division of the Ministry of Civil Aviation that probes plane accidents. The crash at the airport in Kozhikode was India's worst passenger aircraft accident since 2010, when another Air India Express flight from Dubai overshot a table-top runway in Mangalore, a city in the south, and slid down a hill, killing 158 people.

Qaeda chief Zawahiri resurfaces in video on 9/11 anniversary

Twenty years after the ghastly terror attack on the US, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, rumoured dead, has surfaced in a video released on the 9/11 anniversary. US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks the online activity of jihadist groups, reported that Zawahiri spoke on a number of issues. Rita Katz, SITE's Director tweeted, "Amid rumours of his death, Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri shown in a new 60-minute video, this time offering some evidence that he is not dead—particularly, reference to events after December when rumours of death surfaced."

While the Taliban who have taken over Afghanistan may be donning a friendly face for Western audiences, their intrinsic bonds with Al-Qaeda persists. Al-Qaeda has made it clear that for them, the new Islamic Emirate is a victory and they're beneficiaries of the spoils.

UK drops plan for vaccine passports in England

The UK government has dropped a plan to make people in England show vaccine passports to enter crowded events such as nightclubs, the health minister said yesterday. The government had previously said these would be introduced at the end of this month, despite opposition from businesses in the sector and from some Conservative MPs. Health minister Sajid Javid announced the U-turn, saying the government does not view the move as necessary in the current virus situation, citing high vaccine uptake. The UK has given two vaccine doses to more than 80 percent of over-16s and is expected to announce shortly whether it will extend vaccination to those aged 12 to 15.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

We can behead 'Kefirs' like you

Habibullah Farzad, a PhD scholar of the South Asian University, New Delhi and also a human rights activist, was beaten mercilessly by Taliban for participating in a protest for women's rights on 8th September in Kabul. Habib Farzad who has sustained multiple injuries including a broken hand talked to The Daily Star's correspondent Mostafa Shabuy about Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

The Daily Star: What actually happened that day?

Habibullah Farzad: On Wednesday, 50-60 female students and activists and 5-6 male protesters, including me, were staging a protest demanding greater rights for women. Our aim was to defend rights of all citizens, but especially that of women, who are facing serious threat despite the Taliban promises.

After one hour later, when we started our slogan, some Taliban armed soldiers arrived at the scene and tried to detain the male protesters. I told them that we were staging a peaceful protest but they forcefully took me and the other male protesters to a nearby police office. They said we were not protesting against the Taliban, but against Islam.

Around 11 am, they took me to a room where 4-5 Taliban soldiers were waiting. They handcuffed my hands behind the back and started beating me brutally. Within -5-6 minutes I lost my consciousness and when I woke up approximately an hour later, I found myself on the corridor. Then they took me to other room where there were more detained people including journalists.

Then the Taliban forced me to change my blood-soaked clothes and told me to wear traditional afghan clothes. I was wounded seriously. My right hand was broken. My left hand also was beaten seriously.

Nearly after three hours of my arrest, they released me because the female protesters were continuing their protest, demanding our release. Before releasing me, the Taliban took my fingerprint on a written paper which I was not allowed to read.

Before releasing us, they accused us of protesting against the Islamic state and forbade us against more protests. "You are acting against Islam so we are allowed to kill kefirs like you," they warned us.

TDS: Who are protesting? Is it ethnocentric or collective?

Habib: Though the protests are concentrated in urban areas and mostly being conducted by rights groups and ethnic minorities, I can say, they are collective in nature. All people who are concerned about the crackdown on rights under Taliban,

irrespective of their ethnicities, are protesting.

TDS: How the Taliban takeover has impacted people so far?

Habib: So much happening right now. There is so much uncertainty and panic. The public places are mostly empty. Media is restricted. All educational institutions are closed. People are losing their jobs,



Habibullah Farzad is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kabul.

passing time at home hopelessly. The economy is collapsing very first, especially the small and medium businesses. We are seeing desperate people crowding outside banks to withdraw some money. Everything is changing so fast and the sense of insecurity is driving people to leave the country. But unfortunately the borders are closed too.

TDS: What differences you see between the West-backed government and the Taliban?

Habib: I am not supportive of the previous government too. However the previous US-backed regime at least tried to protect the rights of minority ethnic groups. The discriminations were there but not this explicit under the Taliban.

TDS: How the allegedly corrupt Karzai and Ghani regimes secured rights of minorities?

Habib: Yes, you are right. They were corrupt and they both belong from the Pashtuns, who have dominated Afghanistan for centuries. But when we compare the previous regimes and the Taliban government, there were limited opportunities for the minorities. I mean the previous governments at least promised and provided some opportunities and freedom to women and others which

we can't ignore. Now, under the Taliban, we risk losing everything we achieved in the last 20 years.

TDS: Is the Taliban government inclusive?

Habib: The new government is not inclusive. So far, the actions taken by the Taliban, do not reflect their promises to the Afghans and international community. This

"At least 14 people from the same extended family were killed after lightning struck two adjoining houses," Kamran Bangash, the provincial spokesman, told AFP.

The dead included five children and four women, he added.



Lightning strike kills 14 in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

At least 14 people were killed and another three injured when lightning struck two houses in northwestern Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

The incident took place in Torghar, a mountainous region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where torrential monsoon rains and landslides have caused havoc since Wednesday.

"At least 14 people from the same extended family were killed after lightning struck two adjoining houses," Kamran Bangash, the provincial spokesman, told AFP.

The dead included five children and four women, he added.



SEPTEMBER 12

1955 - The Soviet Union and West Germany agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

1993 - Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed Oslo Accords, a peace agreement outlining a plan for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

2008 - Series of fatal bomb blasts in New Delhi, India.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Advertisement for Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons (BCPS) Job Opportunity. Details include Project Name: Development and implementation of integrated automation software of BCPS, Project Duration: 18 months, Job Position: IT Consultant (Operational), Salary: Negotiable. Lists job responsibilities, educational requirements, and experience requirements. Contact: (Professor Md. Bilal Alam) Honorary Secretary, Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons.