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Wait and watch

Analysts ask govt to closely monitor developments before deciding to recognise Taliban govt

PORIMOL PALMA

Scepticism grows among policymakers and foreign relations analysts over Bangladesh-Afghan relationship under the Taliban, which have formed an interim government with the hardliners despite their promise of an inclusive cabinet.

The formation of the new government in Kabul has dealt a blow to the expectations that this Taliban might be moderate, have learned lesson from the past and now want a good rapport with the international community.

Analysts think Bangladesh needs to wait and watch closely the developments in the coming days before deciding to recognise the Taliban government.

Afghanistan's interim government is made up of hard-line Taliban and Haqqani Network members. The network, which is designated as a terrorist organisation by the US, is responsible for deadly attacks and kidnappings in Afghanistan over the past two decades.

Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, is acting prime minister and Taliban co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar is his deputy. Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of the founder of Haqqani Network, is interior minister and is one of FBI's most wanted men due to his involvement in suicide attacks and ties with al-Qaeda.

No representatives from women and ethnic minorities and none of those who had played critical roles in

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The renovation of several streets in the capital's Tejgaon area causes immense suffering to commuters as vehicles face long tailback. The photo was taken on Satrasta, an intersection that connects multiple major areas of the city.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

RIVER GRABBING

Upazila admin starts probing ship builder

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Gazaria upazila administration in Munshiganj has launched an investigation into the allegations against a company -- Three Angle Marine Ltd -- which has been occupying rivers, canals and land and was listed as an "illegal occupant" by the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC).

The upazila administration began the investigation as per the instructions of the district administration in the wake of recent media reports.

The upazila nirbahi officer and assistant commissioner (land) of the upazila went to the company's ship-building yard on Monday and carried out the investigation, Ziaul Islam Chowdhury, Gazaria UNO confirmed.

He said some people had complained that their land was not purchased and had been illegally

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Tk 130 a day to owning companies

Rab arrests man who amassed crores illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man who used to earn Tk 130 per day as a computer operator at Cox's Bazar's Teknaf Land Port in 2001 has amassed crores of taka illegally, Rab said after his arrest yesterday.

While working at the port, the arrestee -- Nurul Islam, 41 -- mastered the techniques of smuggling, evading tax, unloading illegal goods, and tampering documents, Rapid Action Battalion said.

He then formed a racket of brokers and amassed crores of taka over the last two decades, Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, said after members of the elite force -- along with an intelligence agency -- arrested him from Dhaka's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

Rab said they seized fake Bangladeshi currency worth 3.46 lakh, Myanmar currency worth 3.80 lakh, Tk 2.01 lakh in cash, and 4,400 pieces of yaba during the

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Malraux wants to join Bangladesh Liberation War

SEPTEMBER 15, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGALEE ENVOYS ASKED TO OPT FOR BANGLADESH
The Bangladesh government issued an order asking all East Bengali diplomats abroad to either opt for Bangladesh within a fortnight or face condemnation as traitors to the cause of Bangladesh.

MALRAUX WANTS TO TAKE OVER A MILITARY COMMAND
Andre Malraux, the famous French litterateur and politician, wanted to join the Bangladesh Liberation War and take over a military command. He expressed the desire in a letter to an Indian diplomat friend. He asked that Bengal be a country of resistance. He said, "Bengal is not necessarily a country of non-violent resistance. It can be and must be a country of resistance only... The only intellectuals who can speak seriously in the name of Bengal are those who will fight for Bengal." Referring to his military experience, Malraux said, "I am ready to take a military command in Bengal."

ON THE WAR FRONT
In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini today raided Pakistani troops in Sitaldanga area. Heavy fighting took place, and four Pakistani soldiers were killed and two were injured.

On the same day, a group of guerrillas ambushed a mixed patrol of Pakistani troops and Razakars near Ghupdanga and killed eight

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Hand over Evaly case to home ministry

Recommends nat'l body on e-commerce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national committee on e-commerce yesterday recommended that the commerce ministry hand over the case of Evaly, an e-commerce company, to the home ministry for taking legal action for its anomalies in business.

Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary to the commerce ministry, told this to journalists after a meeting with the national committee at his secretariat office in the capital.

He said the national committee also suggested sending the names of nine other errant e-commerce companies, whose names come to the fore for anomalies in goods delivery and financial irregularities, to the home ministry after investigation

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Gold mask among 3,000-yr-old relics unearthed in China



CNN ONLINE

A gold mask dating back over 3,000 years is among hundreds of relics uncovered from a series of sacrificial pits in southwest China, according to the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Heritage Administration.

The finds were made at Sanxingdui, a 4.6-square-mile archeological site outside Chengdu that has yielded thousands of ancient artifacts since a local farmer stumbled across it in the 1920s.

The golden mask, which was discovered in June but first unveiled earlier this month, weighs about 100 grams (0.22 pounds) and would have been part of a larger bronze head rather than a

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Mass exodus from capital key reason for Covid spread

Reveals study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mass exodus of people from Dhaka city and surrounding areas last year was the primary reason behind the countrywide spread of novel coronavirus, reveals a study recently published in Nature Microbiology, a UK-based scientific journal.

The study, titled "genomics, social media, and mobile phone data

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 15

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PEGASUS SPYWARE

Apple issues iPhone software update

CNN ONLINE

Apple has updated its software for iPhones to address a critical vulnerability that independent researchers say has been exploited by notorious surveillance software to spy on a Saudi activist.

Researchers from the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab said the software exploit has been in use since February and has been used to deploy Pegasus, the spyware made by Israeli firm NSO Group that has allegedly been used to surveil journalists and human rights advocates in multiple countries.

The urgent update that Apple (AAPL) released Monday plugs a hole in the iMessage software that allowed hackers to infiltrate a user's phone without the user clicking on any links, according to Citizen Lab. The Saudi activist chose

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Farmers with their vegetables for sale at a local wholesale market in Jhalakathi's Dasher Pool area. Traders from nearby districts go to the market on Mondays and Fridays to purchase vegetables.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Big drop in antibodies

Finds Indian study on fully vaccinated health workers within four months of first Covid shot

AGENCIES

A study of 614 fully vaccinated health workers in India found a "significant" drop in their Covid-fighting antibodies within four months of the first shot.

The findings could help the Indian government decide whether to provide booster doses as some Western countries have done.

Waning antibodies do not necessarily mean that immunised people lose their ability to counter the disease, as the body's memory cells may still kick in to offer substantial protection, said the director of a state-run institute that did the study.

"After six months, we should be able to tell you more clearly whether and when a booster would be needed," Sanghamitra Pati of the Regional Medical Research Centre, based in the eastern city of Bhubaneswar, told Reuters yesterday.

"And we would urge similar studies in different areas for pan-India data."

British researchers said last month that protection offered by two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech and the AstraZeneca vaccines begins to fade within six months.

The Indian study, published in the Research Square pre-print platform but yet to be peer reviewed, is one of the first such done in the country involving its main two vaccines - Covishield, a licensed version of the AstraZeneca shot, and domestically developed Covaxin.

Health officials say though they are studying the

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