

Uzbekistan bracing for possible Afghan refugee crisis



Temerz working and living temporarily. The ones that know do not want to return to their homeland," the journalist who spoke on condition of anonymity told Eurasianet.

Abdulkadir Navoi, 56, was born in Fayz, a province in northern Afghanistan, but has been living in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, for 16 years.

"I called him the father in my two days ago to ask about the situation. He said that all the surrounding areas had been captured by the Taliban, but that they had not yet entered their city. I am very upset and concerned about the fate of my parents. My father is 55, and my mother is 50," he told Eurasianet.

A town city has been erected inside the southern Uzbekistan city of Termez, apparently in advance of an anticipated flow of refugees from bordering Afghanistan, large parts of which are currently gripped by fighting between government and Taliban forces, local residents have said.

Termez-based journalist Ablov Kurbanmurodov, who on July 3 visited an area near the Hiranu border outpost, the only official crossing from Afghanistan, told Eurasianet that he was not permitted to view the tents, but that officials with the security services confirmed the presence of the camp.

"The State Security Service officers said the tents had been put up in case of emergency or unexpected developments," Kurbanmurodov said.

"There is no one in the tents yet."

Pakistan receives 2.5 million Moderna doses from U.S.

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has received 2.5 million doses of Moderna Inc.'s (MRNA) COVID-19 vaccine from the United States, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry and the U.S. embassy in Islamabad said on Friday.

"These vaccines will give boost to ongoing vaccination drive in Pakistan," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zahid Hafiz Chaudhry posted on Twitter. "Deeply appreciate continued support by the US in our fight against the pandemic."

The United States donated the doses through the global COVAX facility, which aims to provide vaccines to developing countries like Pakistan. Pakistan has so far relied heavily on its ally China to provide vaccines, those of which, Skoppharm (100 HFC), Calsino, and Sinovac (DVA-19) are being used in the country.

Pakistan also plans to purchase 13 million doses of Pfizer Inc.'s (PFIZER) vaccine before the end of the year and the AstraZeneca Plc (AZN) vaccine is also available in the country, real-time. More than 13 million people have been partially vaccinated in the country, and more than 3 million fully vaccinated.

Pakistan has registered a total of 859,685 cases and 22,843 deaths. On Thursday, 1,100 new infections and 24 deaths were reported, notes.



United States, where he is understood to have been engaged in talks with officials in Washington on how Tashkent might assist in coping with a fast-evolving security situation in Afghanistan. The visit is scheduled to wrap up on July 4.

More indication of the Afghan military's collapse against advancing Taliban forces arrived from Tashkent on July 3 as that country's security services reported that 300 Afghan troops were forced to seek refuge into its southern Khatlon province and yet another stronghold. The soldiers are said to have fled from Afghanistan's Badkhash province, which is increasingly controlled by the Taliban.

This is the third known case of large numbers of Afghan troops seeking haven in Tajikistan in less than two weeks. Uzbekistan has taken a firm line against accepting Afghan troops, warning them that they are violating international law by crossing the border without approval.

A spokesman for the presidential administration in Tashkent said on June 28 that there had been several such attempts in the preceding few days.

"There was a lot of Afghan in

38 people killed, 51 injured in rain-triggered landslides, floods in Nepal



KATHMANDU—Flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains across Nepal have killed at least 38 people, dead, including seven children, and wounded over 50 others in the last 20 days, the Home Ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry said 51 people remained missing and 24 people, including three children, have gone missing in the incidents of floods and landslides in different parts of the country.

Similarly, 1,250 people have been evacuated from different parts of the country that were hit by the torrential rain, it said.

Five people were killed in Sindhupalchok district, four killed in Doti district, three each in Gorkha and Baitadi, two each in Chitwan, Tanahun, Panchthar and Ramech, one each in Laligur, Khaptang, Saptari, Kailash, Sindhuli, Jirga, Arghakhanchi, Dang, Palpa, Kailash, Panchthar, Baitadi and Baitadi districts, the ministry said.

A total of 70 houses have been damaged, 510 homes, 90 schools and 19 bridges were destroyed due to the floods and landslides, it said.

The Nepal Army personnel, Nepal Police and Armed Police Forces have been mobilised to carry out rescue operations. Over 5,100 people have been displaced due to the natural calamity during this period.

Indian police investigate whether scammers gave thousands of shots of salt water instead of vaccine



As India intensifies its vaccination effort amid fears of another wave of the coronavirus, officials are investigating allegations that perhaps thousands of people were injected with fake vaccines in the financial capital, Mumbai.

"There are doubts about whether we were actually given COVID-19 or was it just saline water," a victim of the scam, Ashu, who said he was a victim of the scam, told the press.

The police have arrested 14 people in connection with the scam, including a prominent businessman, Sidhant Chhabra, who is a close associate of the scam. The police are also investigating whether the scam was a part of a larger scam involving the sale of fake vaccines.

Medical cases are nothing new in India, where, during the country's summer outbreak this spring, professors suggested vulnerable Covid patients with fake drugs and oxygen. The police in Mumbai are also investigating whether hundreds of people, including a local journalist, received fake vaccines there.

India has administered more than 140 million vaccine doses, but less than 5 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, according to the World Health Organization.

Tajikistan becomes first country to make COVID-19 vaccines mandatory

Tajikistan's government announced Saturday that all adults will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19, making it the first country in the world to impose such a sweeping mandate as it tries to contain a new outbreak of coronavirus.

A statement from the Republican Government for Strengthening Anti-Epidemic Measures announced that the government has decided to make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for all citizens, effective from July 1, 2021.

Since the outbreak was contained on June 21, the health ministry has reported more than 260 cases, including 21 cases on Saturday, noting the country's first wave of the pandemic began to subside. No new cases had been reported for a period of more than five months.

Tajikistan's vaccination campaign has begun mass efforts against coronavirus infection, but the government's efforts have increased in recent weeks. More than 200,000 people are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19, which represents 2.9% of the population, according to the health ministry. Nearly 18,000 people (0.19%) are fully vaccinated.

While Tajikistan is the first to enforce mandatory vaccination for all of its citizens, other countries are requiring the vaccine to work in certain fields or to visit high-risk places. Earlier this week, Abu Dhabi in the U.A.E. announced that unvaccinated people will be banned from most public places.

However,

to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford. The country's reported nearly 9,000 new cases daily and nearly 1,000 Covid deaths, numbers that are lower than two months ago, although experts have always believed India's official tally to be vastly understated.

On Saturday, the pharmaceutical company Bharat Biotech reported that its Covaxin shot, the other vaccine in wide use in India, is preventing symptomatic illness, according to the results of a large-scale trial. These results have not yet been peer-reviewed.

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