

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **TALIBAN'S EXTREMIST IMPLEMENTATION OF SHARIA LAW-**

1. Afghan musicians are attempting to recreate a famous school in Portugal. Afghanistan has a rich musical tradition, and a thriving pop music scene has emerged over the last two decades. Many musicians, however, are concerned about their futures under the Taliban, which governs according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law. <https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/art-and-culture/afghan-musicians-look-to-recreate-famed-school-in-portugal-7675873/>

### **HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER TALIBAN**

2. India is in talks with Pakistan about shipping wheat to Afghanistan as aid. Because New Delhi does not recognise the Taliban regime in Kabul, India intends to hand over the wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN's food assistance branch. On December 11, India sent 1.6 tonnes of life-saving medicines to Kabul on a special charter flight, and the supplies were handed over to WHO representatives. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-in-touch-with-pakistan-on-modalities-for-shipping-wheat-as-aid-to-afghanistan-101639667207268.html>
3. Russia warns that the Taliban risk losing power in Afghanistan if an inclusive government is not established. The Kremlin's envoy to Afghanistan stated that the Taliban must ensure inclusivity in power-sharing, but emphasised that this was not an ultimatum. The international community has repeatedly urged the hardline Islamist group to share a larger slice of power with ethnic minority communities such as Hazaras and Tajiks. It has not recognised the Taliban, as countries around the world continue to closely monitor the actions of Islamist fundamentalists in terms of human rights and inclusiveness. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/taliban-risk-losing-power-without-inclusive-government-in-afghanistan-warns-russia-101639740378042.html>

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

4. Imran Khan warns against the international community's isolation of Afghanistan. Imran Khan, Pakistan's Prime Minister, has warned the international community against isolating Afghanistan. This comes at a time when the Taliban is attempting to gain global recognition as Afghanistan faces its worst humanitarian crisis in decades. [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/imran-khan-warns-against-isolation-of-afghanistan-by-international-community-121121600149\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/imran-khan-warns-against-isolation-of-afghanistan-by-international-community-121121600149_1.html)
5. Two Saudi humanitarian aid planes land in Afghanistan, carrying nearly 200 tonnes of relief supplies. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, which sent two planes with 1,647 food baskets and 192 shelter bags, arrived in Kabul yesterday. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/two-saudi-humanitarian-aid-planes-land-in-afghan-with-nearly-200-tons-of-relief-material.html>
6. UNICEF Will Reroute Humanitarian Aid To Afghanistan's "Helpless" Children Through Uzbekistan. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan through a logistics centre in the Uzbek city of Termez. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is 'pretty desperate,' according to the UN, which has emphasised the importance of sending food, medicine, shelter, and other necessities to the war-torn country as soon as possible. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/unicef-to-re-route-humanitarian-aid-for-helpless-children-in-afghanistan-via-uzbekistan.html>
7. Nearly 100 former British Council staff remain in hiding in Afghanistan. Staff employed to teach British values and the English language were denied entry into the UK. Joseph Seaton, the former British Council Afghanistan English manager and deputy director, has written to the most relevant cabinet members in an attempt to gain their support. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/09/nearly-100-former-british-council-staff-remain-in-hiding-in-afghanistan>
8. Afghan Migrants Push Through French-Italian Alps in Search of a Better Life in Europe. After the Taliban took over Afghanistan, Afghans began evacuating the country; three months later, the migrants are making their way across Europe's snowy Alps. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/europe/in-pics-afghan-migrants-push-through-french-italian-alps-seeking-better-life-in-europe-imageid-2.html>

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

9. Humanitarian organisations have warned that Afghanistan is on the verge of disaster, as its economic and medical systems have collapsed and millions have gone hungry in the months since the Taliban took over and the US withdrew. Since August, billions of dollars in the country's central bank reserves, much of which is held in the United States, have been frozen. The mostly Democratic House members want the administration to release funds to an appropriate UN agency to help pay for things like teacher salaries and school lunches.  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/16/politics/house-lawmakers-afghanistan-letter/index.html>
10. A number of Kabul residents expressed concern about rising food, fuel, and other basic item prices during the winter's cold weather. According to residents, rising fuel and food prices, as well as unemployment, pose significant challenges. This comes as the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) reported in its most recent report that 98% of Afghans do not have adequate access to food  
<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-175924>
11. Women's march in Kabul sanctioned by the Taliban to demand the right to an education, a job, and political representation. Women march for their rights in Kabul with the Taliban's approval, seeking basic rights such as the right to an education, a job, and political representation.  
<https://www.wionews.com/videos/taliban-approved-womens-march-in-kabul-to-demand-right-to-education-job-political-representation-437559>

### **Current Situation**

1. Afghanistan's finance ministry under the new Taliban government has prepared a draught national budget that will be funded without foreign aid for the first time in two decades, according to a spokesman. The exchange rate at the time was around 80 Afghanis to the dollar, but the local currency has been hammered since the Taliban's return, and a new pay scale had also been prepared.  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/taliban-prepare-new-afghan-budget-without-foreign-aid/articleshow/88336217.cms>
2. The value of Afghanistan's currency is plummeting, exacerbating the country's already dire economic situation and deepening poverty in a country where more than half of the population already goes hungry. The Afghani lost more than 11% of its value against the US dollar in

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

a single day earlier this week, before regaining some ground. However, the market remains volatile, and the depreciation is already having an impact on Afghans. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/afghan-currency-slides-prices-surge-as-economy-worsens/articleshow/88336141.cms>

3. India's Central Asian counterparts will meet to discuss the Afghan issue. The foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will all be in India for the three-day dialogue. Tajikistan's foreign minister, Sirojiddin Muhridin, will also pay an official bilateral visit to Jaishankar from December 18 to 20. Bagchi stated that developments in Afghanistan since the Taliban's takeover in August are expected to be discussed. "I would think that given the interests of the participants in this dialogue, regional developments will undoubtedly be an important part of their discussion," he said. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indias-central-asia-meet-to-focus-on-afghan-issue-101639680775659.html>
4. The India-France defence dialogue, which took place in New Delhi on December 17, included a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover, as well as a discussion of Pakistan and China. The Ministers acknowledged their agreement on several strategic and defence issues. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/indo-french-defence-dialogue-touches-upon-afghanistan-pak-china-1889048-2021-12-17>
5. An Afghan refugee who worked as an Uber driver was killed in San Francisco, and his family is looking for answers. According to Ahmad Fawad Yusufi's family, Uber locked his account and refused to assist them. Ilyas cites Khosrowshahi's September blog post, in which he wrote about growing up as an Iranian refugee and pledged that Uber would support Afghan refugees. The CEO announced that Uber had added an in-app donation button that sends funds to the International Rescue Committee's refugee resettlement programmes, as well as Pashto and Dari language support to its Uber Driver app. <https://www.theverge.com/2021/12/16/22837475/afghan-refugee-uber-killed-san-francisco-family>
6. Taliban security officials in Afghanistan's capital Kabul said they had apprehended 21 suspects in the Sara-e-Shahzada exchange market who were attempting to smuggle dollars to neighbouring Pakistan. Officials also claimed that \$18 million was taken from the people. The decision was made by the IEA's economic commission, which was led by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salaam Hanafi, after the Afghani

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

(currency) was exchanged for the lowest cost ever. <https://www.khaama.com/taliban-arrest-21-dollar-smugglers-in-kabul-exchange-market-574674/>

7. Maulvi Abdul Salam Abid, a prominent religious scholar and khateeb, was injured in a bomb blast that ripped through his vehicle in Kabul on Friday afternoon. The sticky bomb was attached to Mualvi Abid's vehicle, which exploded in the Parwan-i-She neighbourhood of Kabul's fourth police district. Government officials have not yet commented on the explosion, and no one has claimed responsibility for it. Mualvi Abid had previously been injured in a similar attack. <https://pajhwok.com/2021/12/17/mualvi-abid-injured-in-sticky-bomb-attack/>
8. Afghanistan's sole COVID-19 facility in Kabul is running low on supplies and drugs. Afghanistan's only COVID-19 facility in Kabul, which serves over 4 million people, is struggling to meet the needs of the most severe patients due to a lack of supplies and funding. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/afghanistans-only-covid-19-facility-in-kabul-faces-shortage-of-supplies-drugs-report.html>
9. According to a Taliban official, the drone fired a missile at a hujra, or guesthouse, on Maulvi Faqir Mohammad's compound, a senior leader of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan movement (TTP). <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-175925>
10. Afghanistan's UN advisor, Nasir Ahmad Fayek, has been appointed to replace Ghulam Mohammad Ishaqzai, the country's permanent representative to the UN. The UN General Assembly in New York approved Ishaqzai by a large majority of votes about two weeks ago, while Afghanistan's new caretaker government has proposed Sohail Shaheen for the position. It is worth noting that Ishaqzai was appointed to the position at the end of former President Ashraf Ghani's administration. <https://pajhwok.com/2021/12/17/fayek-replaces-ishaqzai-as-afghanistan-envoy-to-un/>
11. According to former National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib, the Taliban wanted to execute former President Ashraf Ghani on the orders of Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI. Mohib told Radio Azadi and Voice of America that power would be transferred to the Taliban

18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

through a Loya Jirga, but the Taliban refused to surrender. <https://pajhwok.com/2021/12/17/taliban-wanted-to-execute-ghani-claims-mohib/>

12. A delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia arrived in Islamabad on Friday to attend the 17th Extraordinary Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which will be held on December 19 in Islamabad. The delegation included the Afghan Affairs department's Head, Prince Abdullah bin Khalid bin Saud al-Kabir, and the PP department's Head, Prince Jiluwi bin Turki. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334346/ksas-delegation-arrives-for-oic-cfm-on-kabul>
  
13. The Pakistani nun worked with the Pro Bambini di Kabul organisation in Afghanistan. She spoke about the suffering of those left in the Taliban-ruled country, which is in the grip of a major humanitarian crisis, yesterday evening in Milan. "At the very least, can you take us to Pakistan?" some of them ask. People require wood for heating and medicines. "Prices have risen by perhaps 200 percent." Many Afghans are stranded at the European border in Lesbos as well. [https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-Shanhaz-receives-desperate-messages-from-those-left-in-Kabul'-\(VIDEO\)-54733.html](https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-Shanhaz-receives-desperate-messages-from-those-left-in-Kabul'-(VIDEO)-54733.html)
  
14. The Malalai Maternity Hospital is one of the busiest in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, with around 85 babies born each day, including 20 via Caesarean section. However, the country's ongoing crisis is severely limiting the staff's ability to care for their patients. <https://www.indiablooms.com/health-details/H/10834/lifesaving-support-for-new-mothers-in-crisis-wracked-afghanistan.html>