

"The government is so out of control. It is so bloated and infested with fraud and deceit and corruption and abuse of power."

Ted Nugent

Fawzia Koofi in Fortune's World's Greatest Leaders List



Afghan women's rights advocate and peace negotiator, Fawzia Koofi, has been named as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders of 2021 by Fortune magazine.

Koofi, a former member of parliament, has been at the table with Taliban representatives since September 2020, pushing for an end to the decades-long war between Afghanistan and the Taliban "without compromising democratic institutions and Afghan women's hard-fought rights," the magazine said.

It said that Koofi was targeted in two attacks in 2010 and 2020, but remains un-intimidated.

Koofi, who previously worked as an English teacher and for Unicef, has called the US's unconditional withdrawal from Afghanistan a "moral defeat" that could jeopardize negotiations with the Taliban, according to the magazine. But she's determined to press on because "we know that an inclusive ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)

NATO Chief Says It's Time for Afghans to Take 'Full Responsibility'

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said late Monday that "there is no doubt that Afghanistan faces serious challenges," but that he strongly believes Afghans have to take full responsibility for their own future.

Addressing a press conference in Brussels ahead of Tuesday's virtual NATO foreign and Defense Ministers meeting, Stoltenberg said the only way to lasting peace in Afghanistan is for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process.

He said Afghans are now responsible for the security in their own country "and at some stage the Afghans have to take full responsibility, responsibility for their own future."

"And as we end our military presence in Afghanistan, we will continue to provide support to the country with our civilian presence, helping with capacity building, with funding for the Afghan security forces, with helping to maintain some critical infrastructure including the airport, and then out-of-country training.

On Tuesday's meeting he said NATO ministers will discuss a range of issues regarding Afghanistan, including the way forward.

On the decision to withdraw troops he said: "The security situation in Afghanistan remains very difficult and challenging," but stated "I think we have to understand that the intention was never to stay in Afghanistan forever."



He said however that as NATO ends its military mission, it is "stepping up our support to Afghanistan in other ways."

He said the civilian presence will be maintained in Afghanistan to provide advice and capacity building to the Afghan security institutions and that NATO will help fund the Afghan Security Forces.

"We are planning to provide out-of-country training for the Afghan Security Forces. And we are also now

working on how we can sustain critical infrastructure. For instance, the airport provides support to the running of the airport and other critical infrastructure, which is important for the continued presence of the international community in Afghanistan," he said.

He said: "We have been there for twenty years and we will continue to provide support but no longer through a military presence in Afghanistan." (ATN)

US Wrapping Up Ops at Bagram and Preparing to Hand Over Base



KABUL - As the U.S. continues with its withdrawal of troops, sources at Bagram Air Base, also known as Bagram Airfield, told BBC that logistical work around handing over the base to the Afghan Ministry of Defense started on Monday.

The Afghan Defense Ministry also confirmed to the BBC that full responsibility for the air base will soon be handed over to Afghan forces.

Bagram Air Base is situated about 20km south of Kabul and has been the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan.

It has also been the main base for foreign forces, command and air operations for the past two decades and U.S. presidents have stayed at the base during visits to Afghanistan.

There is also the famous Bagram prison which has already been handed over to the Afghan military.

Sources also told BBC that millions of dollars in equipment from ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)

Afghan Officials Arrested for The Charge of Corruption and Embezzlements



KABUL - Senior government officials detained for the charges of corruption and embezzlement, an official said.

Tariq Arian, a spokesperson to the Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a

statement that former governor, former and current mayor for Samangan province have been arrested on Tuesday for the charges of corruption.

According to other sources, Khairullah Anosh, the ex-governor of Samangan, Mohammad Haidar Khurrami the former mayor, and Firoz Tagin the current mayor of Aibak city of Samangan have been detained for the embezzlement of 600 million Afghani government funds. The suspects have been arrested the ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)

Daily COVID-19 Cases, Death Count Continues to Rise



KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health on Tuesday reported 1,045 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 3,614 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

This is the second-highest number

of reported cases in a 24-hour period since the coronavirus was first reported in the country in February 2020.

The ministry also reported 33 deaths in the past 24 hours, which is the highest number of reported deaths in a 24-hour period since the outbreak began.

The ministry also reported 112 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period.

The cumulative total of known COVID-19 cases is 74,026, the total number of reported deaths is 3,007, and the total number of recoveries is 57,742. ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)

Turkey Applies A 14-Day Quarantine on Passengers from Afghanistan



KABUL - The Turkish Embassy in Kabul has announced a new travel advisory for passengers from 8 countries including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Brazil, South Africa and Nepal effective from June 1st, 2021.

A statement published on the Turkish Embassy Twitter account says the passengers from these countries or those who have been into these countries for the last 14 days must travel with a negative PCR test and will be quarantined upon arrival to Turkey for a number of 14 days.

Passengers will be tested for PCR after 14 days of quarantine time, if the result was negative, quarantine will be lifted, if not the passengers with a positive PCR test result will be isolated from the same date to another place facilitated by the government and will be tested again in 14 days, Turkish Embassy said in a statement. The isolation will be ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)

Workshop on Strengthening Women's Economy Held



JALALABAD - A handicrafts exhibition and a workshop on economic empowerment of women were held in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday.

Fatana Aziz, director of provincial women's affairs, said the workshop was aimed at providing training to

women from 11 districts in handicraft production and food processing in collaboration with a number of international organizations.

She added a special market for women had been set up in Jalalabad and efforts were being made to set up two more such markets in one district and

seven police districts of Jalalabad. She said the exhibition and conference were held with the aim of educating women on how to find market their products.

Women engaged in handicrafts in Nangarhar say they have expanded their production, but the lack of a market has exacerbated poverty. Sabrina, who has a handicraft factory in Behsud district, said she produced ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (2)



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Zone Level Covid-19 Hospital Opens in Gardez

GARDEZ - A hospital to treat Covid-19 disease was opened on zone level in Gardez city, the capital of southeastern Paktia province, on Monday.

Construction work on the hospital was started at the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic and it was promised to be completed in a month, but officials say that the construction was delayed due to late arrival of some required materials.

Deputy Paktia governor, Abdul WaliSahi during the inauguration of the hospital said that construction of the facility cost 78 million Afghanis. He said the project was implemented by the National Development Company.

He said that the hospital contained 55 rooms and 100 beds as well as all required resources for Covid-19 patients.

He said that Covid-19 cases gradually decreased after the first wave of the virus and that was one of the reasons that work on construction of the hospital also slowed down.

Considering to the rise in Covid-19 cases in its third wave, work on the hospital was accel-



erated and it was finally completed today, Sahi said. Paktia public health director, Dr. Walayat Khan Ahmadzai said that the hospital would be used during the third wave of the coronavirus. He asked people to follow health guidelines and said, "We are better now compared to the first wave of Covid-19 because

we have an explanation about the virus, that is also the reason fears are not high and we have resources. But people should follow precautions, particularly elder people."

A civil society activist, Dr. Kamal Paktin criticized the Public Health Ministry and relevant organs over their failure to respond to the third wave of the virus.

"Now as the disease is spreading fast, complete measures should be taken. The life of a human is important than anything and negligence in this regard would create unwanted consequences," he said.

Essa Gul, a Covid-19 patient said that he was satisfied with the services in hospitals. "The ...

More on (Page 4) Num (12)

UNAMA Calls on Parties to Conflict to Do More to Safeguard Civilians



United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported Tuesday there was an urgent need to reduce the level of violence and that all parties to the conflict need to do more to protect civilians.

In a series of tweets, UNAMA stated: "Heavy civilian casualties recently documented by UNAMA underscore urgent need to reduce the violence, for progress in Afghanistan peace negotiations and for all parties to do much more to protect civilians from harm."

According to UNAMA, at least 23 civilians were killed and 49 were injured in just seven recorded incidents that took place over a three-day period last week in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, Sari Pul, Parwan, and Kapisa.

UNAMA stated many civilians are being killed and injured by indirect fire from both ANA and Taliban.

"ANA airstrikes and anti-government elements' IEDs also causing many civilian casualties. UNAMA is sharing its findings with the parties, urging them to take all measures to protect civilians," the mission stated.

UNAMA's report comes on the heels of confirmation Tuesday afternoon that some members of the Afghan Republic's peace talks team have returned to Doha, Qatar, in the hope of resuming negotiations.

Talks stalled about four months ago, but sources told Ariana News that Taliban talks team members are already in Doha to pick up on talks. (ATN)

Official Steals Items Worth Tens of Thousands of Dollars

KANDAHAR CITY - The acting director of investigation at the Appellant Attorney General Office in southern Kandahar province has left his job, taking away prisoners' cash, gold and a vehicle worth tens of thousands of dollars.

At least \$50,000 cash, gold worth 180,000 Afghanis, a car worth \$5,000 and other items belonging to prisoners have been stolen and taken away by the official, indicate Pajhwok Afghan News findings.

The real matter: Allah Noor, who previously worked as an acting official at the department, was appointed as director of investigation without any guarantee or justification.

Noor was appointed by the head of the Kandahar Appel-



lant Attorney Prosecutor Office, Isa Khan Ibrahimkhel, without any good reason.

The appointment came after the Attorney General Office issued a letter ordering a reshuffle of administrative and professional staff through the human resource department.

Sources in the Kandahar Appellant Attorney General Office claimed the incident of ...

More on (Page 4) Num (13)

Afghan Stripped of Afghanistan Captaincy Over Zimbabwe Loss

KABUL - The Afghanistan Cricket Board has stripped Asghar Afghan of the national team captaincy, blaming him for losing the test match against Zimbabwe in March at Abu Dhabi.

The ACB said in a statement on Monday that "some of Afghan's decisions as captain of the team resulted in Afghanistan's loss to Zimbabwe in the first test of the series."

The ACB didn't highlight any particular decision made by Afghan during the match but said the decision to remove him from the captaincy was taken on the basis of an "investigation conducted by ACB's investigative committee."

Zimbabwe thumped Afghani-



stan by 10 wickets inside two days in the first test before Afghanistan leveled the series by winning the second test by six wickets.

Left-handed batsman Hashmatullah Shahidi was appointed as new test and ODI captain while Rahmat Shah will be Shahid's deputy in both formats. ...

More on (Page 4) Num (14)

Paktians Want Work Resumed on 103 School Buildings

GARDEZ - Residents and civil society activists of southeastern Paktia province say construction work on 103 school buildings is yet to be started despite promises of government officials 20 months ago.

MujibRahmanKarimi, Rural Rehabilitation and Development Minister, inaugurated construction of the 103 school buildings in Paktia in 2019 and had said that all the buildings would be constructed in a year.

However, no practical work on the school buildings could be launched after 20 months of his promise.

At that time, Karimi during a trip to Paktia had told Pajhwok Afghan News that he inaugurated construction of school buildings in Paktia following a direction from the president.



He had said that construction of school buildings was a program being implemented in districts and capital of Paktia province.

He had said that the project would cost 780 million Afghanis and implementation of the scheme was a priority of his ministry.

Construction of the buildings was started by laying the foundation stone of Shah Afzali ...

More on (Page 4) Num (15)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Jun 2, 2021 - If you were in charge of a company's human resources department, Aries, today you would begin to completely overhaul the recruitment procedure. You would focus more on the human element rather than any diplomas and awards people wave around as evidence of their abilities. Confidence in people combined with trust in your instincts could prove profitable in more ways than you imagine.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Jun 2, 2021 - Taurus, the romantic side of your life may be rocked by a storm of emotion. You may go from intense rage to ecstasy in an instant. The day may instruct you to get hold of your emotions. If you hope to build a stable relationship, it's necessary to maintain psychological coherence and physical health.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Jun 2, 2021 - The day may be somewhat oppressive, Gemini. It's possible you will receive some unpleasant news related to your domestic life. Perhaps in the past few years you haven't been especially careful about your home budget. Or you may have postponed an important maintenance task for too long. While this may not be the day the roof literally falls in, it's time to take care of repairs.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Jun 2, 2021 - You seem frustrated today, Cancer! There's only one person who could possibly arouse your anger to such a degree, and that's you. Today's aspect is favorable for crises of conscience that result in a change of attitude. You're likely to remember to choose your words more carefully from now on.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Jun 2, 2021 - This is a contemplative day, Leo. You seem to be developing new techniques, means, therapies, and methods to use in your main occupation. Today you're likely to question your underlying reasons for so much innovation. Why reinvent the world? Although you may not make any major changes in your activities, you could find new justifications for them.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Jun 2, 2021 - You will have to expect the day to be somewhat frustrating, Virgo. Your friends may insist that you be more cooperative and less individualistic. They could resent your refusal to be part of the team. In fact, your rebelliousness may be earning you quite a reputation! How you deal with these clashes will set the stage for your future. Think carefully before taking action.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Jun 2, 2021 - You mustn't expect to do whatever you like today, Libra. Quite the contrary! You may be restrained by technical limitations. Perhaps your financial resources will be insufficient. In other words, you won't be able to follow your usual pattern of taking refuge on a spiritual island and quietly contemplating your inner thoughts.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Jun 2, 2021 - Science, space exploration, and certain other fields require the participation of all with a very strong team spirit. Stubborn as you are, it doesn't make you the greatest specialist in group dynamics. Certainly no one would ever accuse you of enjoying working in a group, unless you're the one in charge. Just such a miracle is possible, Scorpio, provided you take the first step.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Jun 2, 2021 - What good does it do you to resist change, Sagittarius? Everyone knows that you have trouble adapting to change in the world around you. Unfortunately, that's life and you can't do much about it. However, you aren't powerless. You will find that life is more stable when you can surf the waves of change. Embrace change and make it work for you rather than resist it all the time.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

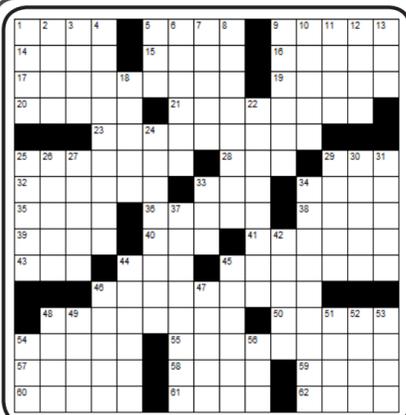
Jun 2, 2021 - If you work in a helping profession such as psychotherapy, you're probably breaking quite a few rules and protocols right now, Capricorn. You may even be going against theories that were a fundamental part of your education. Don't be troubled by your rebelliousness. It's important that the status quo be challenged from time to time. It's people like you who advance the field!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Jun 2, 2021 - You don't have to be a genius or do something extraordinary in order for people to notice you, Aquarius. It's time you abandon the notion that you can't play a musical instrument because you don't have perfect pitch or that you can't sculpt because you don't have Michelangelo's genius! Dare to engage in any hobby or interest that you fancy.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Jun 2, 2021 - You aren't free enough, Pisces. This is especially true in your relationships. With the current astral energy, you can expect to break free of your chains. It's time for you to participate more in life. Speak your mind. Tell people what you want and when you want it. Surely one of your desires is freedom. Overcome your fear of rejection and ask for it! It really is as simple as that.



Across

- Rectum, 5. Baby's bed, 9. Ottoman title, 14. After-bath powder, 15. Depend, 16. Wheel shafts, 17. Excessively promotes, 19. Crown, 20. Creeping evergreen shrub, 21. Outthrusts of rock, 23. Room with printing machines, 25. Polish remover, 28. L, 29. Sweet potato, 32. Corpulent, 33. Prefix meaning "Modern", 34. Not in danger, 35. Winglike, 36. Leaves out, 38. Grub, 39. Fully developed, 40. Slice, 41. Place of learning, 43. Card with one symbol, 44. Woman, 45. Collusions, 46. A list of the financial assets, 48. More messy, 50. Habituate, 54. Flooded, 55. Presented for acceptance, 57. Antiquated, 58. Alley, 59. Jewelry, 60. Aromatic solvent, 61. Distinctive flair, 62. Satisfy

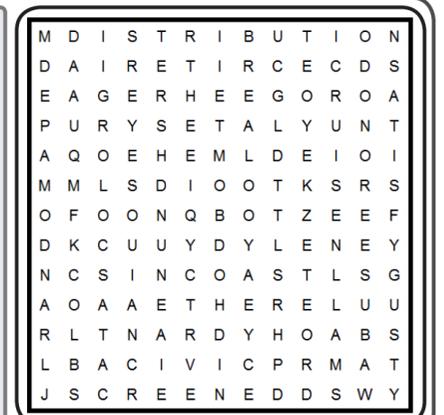
Down

- At the peak of, 2. Fleet, 3. Gorse, 4. Sacred writings, 5. Weep, 6. Rest, 7. Blockage of the intestine, 8. A side street, 9. Guard, 10. Adage, 11. Smack, 12. Not his, 13. An Old Testament king, 18. Long-necked bird, 22. Enormous, 24. Seed vessel, 25. Great black cockatoo, 26. Infant's illness, 27. French for "Storehouse", 29. Country bumpkin, 30. Underway, 31. Whimpers, 33. Louse-to-be, 34. Sailing vessels, 37. Manifold, 42. Most important, 44. Burrowing rodent, 45. Electric discharge, 46. Sheriff's group, 47. Not domesticated, 48. Smack, 49. Whip, 51. Murres, 52. Lease, 53. Border, 54. Mime, 56. Bog

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RAPID	AMMO	NITE
SUSPENSION	FEEL	
DUAD	WAS	EUR
INFIDEL	ENDMOST	
STASIS	TRAILOR	
GOASTAIR	FLUSSILE	
ARSENIC	TROCK	
RATTY	GAGES	
ETUI	NATURALIZE	
LILLS	ALLAR	LUITD
NAIF	MINE	ALONG
ESPIY	EATS	DUNCE

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How to Tackle Capital Flight from Afghanistan?

Businessmen have a very important role to play in a capitalist economy. It is businessmen activities that generate most of a nation's wealth, creates the lion's share of jobs, and provides most of the funds that go towards government spending.

In recent years Afghan businessmen have left Afghanistan due to lack security and a safe economic environment. Economic experts believe that If government does not ensure businessmen safety and the safety their properties and markets, they will leave Afghanistan and invest in other countries. The rate of kidnapping and threatening businessmen have been on the rise in 2021. It is understandable the private sector to be worried about the issue.

1,500 Businessmen Left the Country in 2020

At least 1,400 Afghan businessmen have left for Turkey due to insecurity in 2020. Each of these businessman had a minimum capital of \$ 200,000, and the total capital that have taken out of the country has been almost \$1.5 billion. At the absence of ensuring security by security institutions, each Afghan businessmen inside the country must spend 25% of their income to ensure their security.

Causes and Consequences of Capital Flight

Adequate human and physical capitals are considered as the man factors of economic development in any country. Considering the insecurity in the country, we not only are incapable to attract the investors but our own businessmen take their capitals out of the country.

Capital flight is one of the challenging issues of Afghanistan indicating the structural problems in economic and political areas. Capital had flight negative consequences on economic development of Afghanistan in the recent past years. It has increased development gap between Afghanistan and other countries. It also has increased economic gap between the Afghan population. Lack of security, wide spread corruption, political and economic instability are the main local factors of capital flight while the global macro-economic policies are considered as the external causes of capital flight from the country.

In general, electoral tensions during the 2019 polls allowed the Taliban to gain ground. It also followed a deadlock in the intra-Afghan peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban representatives. The talks began in September last year and have failed to make any progress in the peace process. Some Businessmen leave Afghanistan due to the US and its allies troop withdrawal fearing a repeat of events as the one which led to the fall of the Moscow-backed communist regime in the 1990s, following the departure of the former Soviet Union's troops

Afghan businessmen have bitter experiences from the past which led to internal war in the country. As a result, 60 percent of the private sector has ended activities in recent years. Unfortunately, factories have closed, and only those involved in businesses such as food and fuel items operate.

Some of the companies that are more heavily dependent on the military and the aid economy, like construction and logistics businesses, are trying to stay put by reconfiguring toward the few areas where analysts feel Afghanistan might have growth potential, like mining or trade.

Measures to Tackling Capital Flight

Their first priority to tackle capital flight from Afghanistan is the government must ensure security of the businessmen and businesses. It shall take all the necessary measures to try to pursue a policy minimize political and economic instability. Other measures include primarily reducing budget deficits, setting realistic exchange rates and achieving lower rates of inflation. Nevertheless, it is beyond dispute that more stable economic and economic policy conditions are essential if citizens' confidence in the economy of their own country is to be restored and hence capital flight curbed. Businessmen fleeing and moving their businesses to outside Afghanistan is one of the big problems of the country. Capital flight is a critical challenge to economic development in Afghanistan. The problem is serious and won't go away on its own. It is urgent, therefore, to mobilize political capital around strategies to prevent further financial outflow from Afghanistan by curbing capital flight. It is clear that the loss of capital and investors have a long-term impact on the already shaky economy of Afghanistan which has mainly relied on foreign funds since the Taliban's ouster in the US-led invasion of 2001. The capital flight will cause the economy to slow down, closure of factories and joblessness, and gradually an economic crisis, as well as psychological fears about the future of Afghanistan. As a result, in addition to putting in place realistic policies to curb the capital flight, the Ministry of Interior said security forces must ensure the safety of businessmen across the country.

World No Tobacco Day: a Golden opportunity to Campaign against Smoking and Addictive Substances

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

31 May, is coincided with World No Tobacco Day. This day was designated in 1987 by the world health organization (WHO) to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and diseases it causes. The purpose of the world no tobacco day was also to discourage people, especially youth from using tobacco products by raising awareness about the consequences of smoking and exploitation of the tobacco industry. In the current year, 2021, WHO also launched a global campaign under the slogan "Commit to Quit" to celebrate world no tobacco day. According to WHO, the covid-19 pandemic has made millions of tobacco users quit smoking while nearly 60% of them could not access to cessation services. This deprived population is usually located in the poor and third world countries such as Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, as most of the big or small issues are overshadowed by the macro-political and insecurity crisis, there seem no restrictive policies about smoking and also no tobacco cessation services accessible for the volunteer cigarette quitters. Given the level of insecurity and poverty crisis, smoking and using tobacco products are not considered as serious problems in the country. Despite the fact that smoking has been recognized as harmful to humans, and despite the fact that by 2030 smoking will be another predictable death factor worldwide, its consumption is increasing among people in Afghan society. Even, the highly educated people including teachers, engineers, health workers, and parents smoke secrete in front of children and young teenagers. On one hand, the smokers destroy their own and other's health when they freely smoke secrete at homes, streets, hotels, and other public areas; On the other hand, the smokers directly or indirectly promote the culture of smoking while smoking among children and young teenagers in society. In Afghanistan, smoking, in addition to imposing heavy health and economic expenses on society, is also considered as an initial step to addictions. Initially, the sense of human curiosity combined with low public awareness and also emotional deficiencies propel the young and inexperienced people to enjoy false relief for a short time, but after a while when smoking becomes normal and not create the necessary excitement, the youth will start seeking a new experience. This way, smoking led to addiction and all kinds of addictive drugs amongst the young generation. It is said that about three to five million people are addicted in Afghanistan while the story of most of them are started from smoking. Only in Kabul city, there are about 8 thousand shelterless addicts with the same condition. Therefore, preventive measures against smoking are also considered as an effective measure against addiction in Afghanistan. According to local experts, social injustice, emotional deficiency inside the family,

socialization with addicted friends, accessibility to addictive drugs, lack of public awareness about the consequences of addictions, and more importantly economic and psychological pleasure on the low class of people are some of the major factors behind the problem of smoking and addiction in the country. Unfortunately, more than 72% of people are under the poverty line in Afghanistan while more than 85% of people are affected by the psychological problem. For example, a few years ago, a scientific study was carried out by an EU project showing nearly 85% of Afghan people are suffering from mental health as a result of the forty-year war and violence. The forty-year war and violence have exposed millions of people to different traumatic events that raise the chances of developing mental health problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and poorer life outcomes as adults. Therefore, people smoke cigarettes or use addictive drugs to relieve their social, economic, and emotional psychological pain. In general, the scientific studies and also practical experience in Afghanistan show a strong link between smoking, addiction, and the indifference of the government. It means that the implementation of smoke-free legislation can cause a decline in smoking and addiction phenomena while the indifference of the policymakers combined with the certain social and psycho-social conditions in Afghanistan can lead to a high level of smoking and addiction in the country. So, if the government and elders of Afghanistan wish to have a healthy and un-addicted society, they must take preventive measures against smoking and addiction in the country. In this regard, there is enough regulatory and social experience in the world, especially in a western and advanced society that be applied in Afghanistan as well. In most advanced countries, cigarette smoking policy is regulated in such a way that the smokers, socially and economically, has to incur heavy costs while drug sellers or drug smugglers are faced with serious punishment and even the death penalty. Economically, the cigarette smokers, traders, and producers are seriously restricted with higher tax and higher prices of cigarette but socially the smokers are restricted with smoke-free regulation prohibiting smokers not to smoke in workplaces, public areas, and all indoor spaces. In western countries, most employers do not hire staff with smoking habits and so it is considered a negative point for every individual. On the other hand, cigarette quitters are subsidized for treatment and supported to stop smoking. Advertising campaigns on health dangers is another thing that widely discourages people from smoking and addiction. Given the social and legal restrictions, the culture of smoking has

Mohammad Zahir Akbari is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan. He can be reached at mohammadzahirakbari@gmail.com.

Criticizing the Pandemic

By: Richard Haass

It has now been a year and a half since we started living with – and too often dying from – COVID-19. Although the pandemic is by no means over, it is not too soon to take a step back and draw some preliminary conclusions from the experience. One conclusion that has turned out to be especially tentative concerns the source of the pandemic. Initially, the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 was widely believed to have spread from a wet market in Wuhan, China, after it jumped from an animal (probably a bat) to humans through an intermediary host. But a growing number of scientists and experts now believe it is at least as likely (if not more so) that the virus emerged accidentally from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

There are many reasons to suspect an accidental leak: the institute's location and known work with coronaviruses; the outbreak's distance from bat populations; the inability to identify an intermediary host or any early clusters of cases outside Hubei province; some physical features of the virus; and China's cover-up of evidence and refusal to cooperate fully with international investigators. All are fueling speculation and greater attention from US intelligence agencies, which have now been ordered by President Joe Biden to increase their efforts to identify the origins of COVID-19. If the "lab leak" narrative comes to be widely accepted, it will severely damage China's standing worldwide and could pose a serious political problem for its leadership at home. Looking around the world and comparing national performance in addressing the pandemic, what turns out to matter most is not the nature of the political system so much as the quality of political leadership. Russia, Brazil, Mexico, and the United States under President Donald Trump all failed, while Taiwan, New Zealand, Vietnam, and the US under President Joe Biden have all done relatively well. More than anything, this record suggests that populist leaders perform the worst, possibly because they tend to dismiss inconvenient facts and resist introducing necessary measures that might cost them public support in the short term.

Many countries in East Asia and Europe seemed to have had the virus under control but are now experiencing difficulties. Testing, social distancing, and contact tracing are necessary but insufficient tools. Effective vaccines that can be produced and administered in large numbers are essential.

That fact is evident from the dramatic turnaround in the US, for which the Biden administration deserves considerable credit. The Trump administration, though, should be applauded for making decisions that shortened the time normally needed to develop and produce effective vaccines. The approval of several in little more

than a year shows that governments matter, and that cooperation between the public and private sectors can be a formula for success.

The pandemic has also shown that health security is no less essential than physical security for economic growth. Where the pandemic is being beaten back, as in the US and China, economic revival has quickly followed.

Technology has proven invaluable in at least two ways. Aside from rapid development of a new generation of safe vaccines, technology has helped us manage our personal lives and business affairs much better than we could have done as recently as three decades ago, before the arrival of high-speed internet and computing power that allows remote work.

The actual death toll of the pandemic is likely to be two or even three times higher than official estimates of 3-4 million, given the number of deaths over the past year compared to the number in previous years. Many "excess" deaths have not been attributed to the pandemic, because governments either are unwilling to admit the truth (Russia comes to mind) or are unable to provide an accurate accounting, especially when deaths occur outside of hospitals (which may account for some of the gap in India's reporting).

For all the talk about the "international community," the pandemic has exposed the absence of one. The failure to produce and equitably distribute a sufficient number of vaccines worldwide is a scandal. The demand is there; what remains is the will to match it with the necessary supply. The Biden administration's resistance to significant vaccine exports is shortsighted and disappointing, especially as the US supply of vaccines far exceeds domestic demand.

There is no reason to think COVID-19 will be the last pandemic. To the contrary, there almost certainly will be others, be it another novel coronavirus or something else. As tragic as this pandemic has proven to be, its costs will be compounded unless governments begin to build the national and international institutions (including a much-reformed World Health Organization) that will help us manage the next challenge of this sort. One final point: It does not appear that the pandemic will be a turning point in history. Many of the trends that were visible two years ago – growing great power rivalry, a warming planet, aging populations, failing states, democratic backsliding, cyber insecurity, nuclear proliferation, and terrorism – remain acute. The pandemic will weaken and distract us for a time, but the moment is fast arriving when other challenges must again be given the priority they require.

Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author, most recently, of The World: A Brief Introduction.

Water Matters



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida

Email: outlookafghanistan@gmail.com

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(1) Fawzia Koofi ...

Afghanistan is the only path to a lasting, just peace and end to the war." She has been ranked 40th in the magazine's world's 50 greatest leaders list. "I will only regard myself as a leader when my country and its people live in peace and harmony to which I contribute. Still in the midst of the odds in Afghanistan, this is encouraging," Koofi said on Twitter. (ITV News)

(2) US Wrapping...

the base will be handed over to the Afghan defence forces however, this will not include the state-of-the-art rocket defense system. Bagram base has a single runway capable of handling large military aircraft, including the Lockheed Martin C-5 Galaxy and Antonov An-225. (ATN)

(3) Afghan Officials...

special crime branch for anti-corruption. (Khaama Press)

(4) Daily COVID-19...

So far, 477,746 samples have been tested in government centers and there are 12,652 known active COVID-19 cases in the country, data by the ministry indicates. According to Johns Hopkins University, the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3,550,979 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 170,749,258. (TOLO NEWS)

(5) Workshop on...

handcrafts and sent them to different parts of the country, but sales were low. She urged the authorities provide them with an opportunity to sell their products in provinces and foreign countries. (Pajhwok)

(6) Turkey Applies...

terminated only if the PCR test result is negative, said the Embassy. This comes as the third wave of the Coronavirus has appeared in a large population in many countries including Afghanistan. The Ministry of Public Health has warned the general public to be cautious considering the health and safety guidelines by the government and WHO. In a recent announcement by the Afghan government, schools, colleges and educational centers were ordered to get closed for at least 14 days. (Khaama Press)

(7) Khalid Says Intl...

stops the violence and moves toward the peace process. "They should remember Arghandab, Qara Bagh, Laghman, Baghlan, Helmand and other places. They have suffered heavy losses and have been heavily suppressed whenever they have faced commando forces," said Gen. Haibatullah Alizai, the commander of the special operations corps. His remarks come as violence has remained high in the country in the last few weeks. Parwan, in the center of Afghanistan, has witnessed four security incidents in the last week. Two security force members have been killed in attacks by unknown armed men in the province and the Taliban set fire to a security outpost in Koh-e-Safi district. Four security force members were killed and wounded in a Taliban attack on an outpost in the Shinwari district. "Two police vehicles were targeted in the Ghorband Ha district. Also, targeted attacks have occurred in the center of Parwan and its outskirts," said Aminullah Shakoori, head of the Parwan provincial council. Meanwhile, the Taliban launched attacks in Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Helmand, Zabul, Faryab and Helmand provinces last night. However, security agencies said the attacks resulted in no casualties to Afghan forces. "Pressure is brought on one province. The forces focus on that. Then pressure is mounted on another province and the forces focus there. Ultimately, this makes the forces tired," said Mahdi Rasikh, an MP. (TOLO NEWS)

(8) Over 50% of ...

fight for them. The conditions are there. Women cannot lose these opportunities and go back decades," she said. Herat university has 5,500 girls who are studying in 71 departments. Figures show that the number of girls is more than boys in the university. "Women have an active presence in our master's programs. 53 out of 213 women applicants found their way to a master's degree in this year's exam. Interest in education among Herat girls has increased compared to past years," said Abdullah Fayiz, head of the university. The students said they go to the university every day with the hope of a better future for the country. "Women make up half of society. They can go out of the home and work and be educated, same as men," said Zahra Rahmani, a journalism student. "Women can never be calm when their rights are violated. All women and girls in Afghanistan want to be educated and want to work and support each other," said Ele-

naz Mohammadi, a journalism student at Herat University. Figures provided by Herat University indicate that girls score higher in all subjects than boys. (TOLO NEWS)

(9) 4 Killed in ...

But special forces shortly after the attack said the situation "was under their control." Some civilian homes in the area were damaged in the attack, an army commander Farid Sayed Khili said. "The explosion was huge and damaged civilian homes even 500 meters away. It caused financial damages to the people," Sayed Khili said. He said that security forces pushed back the Taliban attack following the explosion. The Army commander said that Taliban conducted at least three simultaneous attacks in different parts of the district in which "15 of them were killed and wounded." Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Baghlan has been faced with heavy clashes between government forces and the Taliban over the last four weeks. Baghlan-e-Markazi has witnessed most of the clashes during this time. (TOLO NEWS)

(10) Fruit Farmers...

has been the pause of the government-subsidized air routes, commonly known as air corridors. The operation of the air corridors was stopped in mid-March. On May 14, officials said the air routes will soon become operational as President Ashraf Ghani has approved a proposal of the Ministry of Finance allocating 168 million Afs (over \$2 million) for the project. "During the watermelon harvest season in Nangarhar, one truck with watermelons is sent to Kabul while at the same time dozens of trucks are sent from Pakistan," said Mohammad Zahir, a fresh fruit exporter, referring to the impact of imported fresh fruit on local markets. "In provinces where watermelons are grown, such as Farah, the farmers don't have an association through which they can collect watermelon and send it to the markets," said Suhrah, a fruit seller in Kabul.

The private sector said that the government needs to remove hurdles in the way of trade and transit of Afghan fruits to other countries.

"Our transit problems with neighboring countries have remained unsolved. The problems in imports and exports have not been solved. The air corridor has faced hurdles due to COVID-19," said Khan Jan Alokzai, the deputy head of the Afghanistan Chambers Federation.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce did not comment on the matter despite requests from TOLOnews. (TOLO NEWS)

(11) Indian Company...

in losses to the government and from the money eight million would go to the government and the remaining would be distributed among affected vehicle owners. He stressed if the government and TCRC company did not reach an agreement, vehicle owners would lodge a case against them. (Pajhwok)

(12) Zone Level ...

situation was very bad in the past, there were no oxygen, medicine and other facilities, but now we receive good treatment and I am satisfied," he said. According to figures of the Ministry of Public Health, 276 people got infected in Paktia province in the third wave of the virus and 25 of them had died. (Pajhwok)

(13) Official Steals ...

corruption and theft stemmed from the illegal reshuffle. Director Isa Khan Ibrahimkhel, without any cogent reason, appointed Abdul Nafee, the ex-director of investigation, as head of administrative and finance department, insiders alleged. Ibrahimkhel also appointed Allah Noor, who previously served as executive head of the special prosecutor for children, as director of the investigation department. Noor not only misused his position, but also quit his job on his own and took away prisoners' belongings, sources disclosed. Several senior officials of the Kandahar Appellant Attorney General Office, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok in background interviews about the illegal activities, financial corruption and thefts in the office. One official, who declined to be named, said the AGO had instructed the Kandahar Appellant Attorney General Office through a letter (01) No. 1917/1402 on July 8, 2019 that professional employees must be reshuffled via the human resource department. He added Ibrahimkhel replaced the director of investigation with another person as acting head of the department concerned. In addition to the detainees' cash and other belongings, their vehicles were also not safe as the director's bodyguards, classmates and others freely used them. Some of them are said to be missing. One source also shared with Pajhwok a number of other documents (08) alleging

the director's domestic worker had received a lot of money in expenses without due process.

However, all information related to this and other illegal activities of Ibrahimkhel has been shared with the Centre in a letter (09) but no action has been taken in this regard so far.

Reaction from AGO & Ibrahimkhel: Ibrahimkhel denied the allegations leveled against him. He said the changes and appointments were planned by the AGO, but corrupt circles were creating problems for him.

He told Pajhwok: "As director of the Kandahar Appellant Prosecutor Office, I reserve the right to reshuffle the fourth, fifth and sixth grade posts. Noor was a formal employee and was appointed by the administrative reforms office to the fifth grade position." Ibrahimkhel insisted the former investigation director had been deputed to the NDS Prosecutor Office by the centre. Later on, he appointed Noor to the post. Asked why he had not taken action on the theft four months after Noor's escape, he replied an employee had a legal right to 20-day leave. During this period, they could do nothing.

However, after that period, he shared the issue with the police headquarters via various letters and asked them to detain Noor. The central government was aware of the issue, he said, adding a three-member team has been assigned to probe the matter. The outcome would be shared with the central government.

He denied Noor had taken away \$50,000 in cash or a vehicle. The matter was under investigation and had not been finalized yet, he said.

Jamshid Rassouli, spokesman to AGO, confirmed an employee of the Kandahar Appellant Attorney General Office had quit his position willfully, taking away equipment and supplies. The issue has been shared with the AGO by the Kandahar prosecutor office.

With the matter currently being investigated, Rassouli said security organs had been directed to arrest Noor.

Kandahar police spokesman Jamal Nasir Barakzai said the appellant prosecutor office had shared information about Noor through a letter with them.

He added that Noor had escaped but police had launched efforts for his arrest. (Pajhwok)

(14) Afghan Stripped...

Top-ranked Twenty20 leg-spinner Rashid Khan was named vice-captain for T20s while the ACB said it will soon announce a captain for the format. (AP)

(15) Paktians Want ...

Primary School in Sayedan village in Gardiz city, the provincial capital. Paktia provincial council members, civil society activists and residents criticized non-implementation of the project after the passage of 20 months and accused the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development of discrimination. Abdul Malik Zazai, provincial council head of Paktia, said that projects' implementation in the province was paid no attention and most of them remained only as pledges.

"There is a serious need for construction of school buildings and implementation of other projects in Paktia. Security in the province is better compared to many other areas of the country, but projects are still not implemented here," he said. Haji Abdullah, a tribal elder from Sayedan village, said that no one followed the construction of school buildings after its foundation stone was laid.

"It is very bad when officials on a higher level come for inauguration of something and then abandon it," he said.

Omaid, a student of sixth grade in Shah Afzali Primary School in Sayedan village said that he was very happy when construction work on their school building was inaugurated. "We still learn lessons in dust and under sunlight, and when it is raining, we cannot attend our classes. We were very happy that we would be learning in classrooms like in other schools, but no classrooms are made for us," he said.

However, Paktia Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department says that the project would be reconsidered. Fazal-Hadi Asim, director of Rehabilitation and Development Department of Paktia said that the government of Saudi Arabia wanted to review areas where school buildings were supposed to be constructed in order to prevent any problems in the future.

He said that they were trying to start practical work on the project and complete it as soon as possible. Of 103 schools, 92 required new buildings while 11 others would be repaired, according to local officials.

According to Paktia Education Department, there are a total of 405 educational centers and schools in the province but 75 of them are without buildings. (Pajhwok)

(16) Trudeau Promises...

highlights "the absolute genocidal tragedy

of our residential school system," calling on the Trudeau government to demand the Catholic church apologize for its role in the residential school system.

In 2015, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its final report on the inhumane mistreatment inflicted on Indigenous children at residential schools, concluding that they constituted a cultural genocide.

The commission's register of confirmed deaths identified 3,200 students but work is still ongoing to uncover what could be thousands of more deaths that went undocumented.

More than 150,000 indigenous children were reportedly forced into residential schools between the 1870s and 1996. The last residential school closed in 1996. (Xinhua)

(17) Saudi Minister...

stirred resentment on social media, with a hashtag calling for the banning of loud music in restaurants and cafes gaining traction.

Sheikh said criticism of the policy was being spread by "enemies of the kingdom" who "want to stir public opinion".

The policy follows de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's sweeping liberalisation drive, which has pushed a new era of openness in parallel with what observers call a de-emphasis on religion.

The young prince has eased social restrictions in the ultra-conservative kingdom, lifting decades-long bans on cinemas and women driving while allowing gender-mixed attendance at music concerts and sporting events.

The relaxed social norms have been welcomed by many Saudis, two-thirds of whom are under 30, while riling ultra-conservatives.

'Moderate' Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia has clipped the powers of its religious police, who once elicited widespread fear, chasing men and women out of malls to pray and berating anyone seen mingling with the opposite sex.

Prince Mohammed has promised a "moderate" Saudi Arabia as he attempts to break with its austere image, while simultaneously cracking down vigorously on dissent.

Over the past three years, the kingdom has arrested dozens of women activists, clerics, journalists as well as royal family members.

An unclassified US intelligence report concluded Prince Mohammed approved of and likely ordered the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Khashoggi, a columnist for the Washington Post who wrote critically of the crown prince and his policies, was murdered by a team of Saudi agents in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. His dismembered body has never been recovered. (Aljazeera)

(18) Italy's Daily ...

vaccinated or have recovered from the virus or who can show a recent negative test. The country has also been stepping up its vaccine rollout. On Monday, the number of Italian residents fully vaccinated surpassed 20 percent of the total population, and nearly 60 percent of all residents have been at least partially vaccinated. (Xinhua)

(19) Macron Urges...

extremely serious." "We must verify these facts and denounce them if it is true," he said. (Xinhua)

(20) UN Watchdog...

underway in Vienna for the U.S. to rejoin the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

Since the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement, Iran has been steadily violating its various restrictions, including on the types of centrifuges it's allowed to use, the amount of enriched uranium it is allowed to stockpile, and the purity to which it is allowed to enrich.

In the IAEA report, the agency for the first time released estimates of Iran's stockpile rather than precise figures, saying that as of May 22, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was 3,241 kilograms (7,145 pounds), up about 273 kilograms (600 pounds) from the last quarterly report. That was down from an increase of nearly 525 kilograms (1,157 pounds) reported in the last quarterly report. (Fox News)

(21) US Makes...

organization by the Trump administration, which then started seizing oil shipments of allegedly Iranian origin under terrorism laws.

The forfeiture claim for the Achilles and its cargo, which was filed in February, was the first by the Biden administration, showing a continuation of Iran policy in Washington. Tehran branded the seizure an act of international piracy.

The situation was further complicated in March, when an UAE-based oil company laid claim on the seized crude, which by that time had been reportedly unloaded in Houston, Texas.

Fujairah International Oil & Gas Corp (FIOGC), which is controlled by the ruler of the Emirate of Fujairah, said the cargo

belonged to it as an intermediate seller. The Achilles is said to have been seized by the US in the port of Fujairah.

The Trump administration sought to stifle the Iranian oil trade as part of its 'maximum pressure campaign' against Tehran. The US threatened anyone buying crude from Iran with secondary sanctions.

The shift came after the US withdrew from the 2015 multilateral agreement which restricted the Iranian nuclear industry in exchange for sanctions relief and lucrative business opportunities in the West. The Biden administration is currently trying to negotiate a return to the agreement, with talks in Vienna ongoing. (RT)

(22) Australian ...

in that country but rather during the required 14-day hotel quarantine upon his return. Authorities say he was infected by a traveler in another room on his floor and that the virus was carried in the air.

Melbourne began a seven-day lockdown on Friday due to the cluster that by Tuesday had grown to more than 50 cases.

Australia and New Zealand opened a quarantine-free travel bubble in April and hope to create such bubbles with other countries in time. (AP)

(23) Attack on ...

Uganda has a reputation of relative safety and security, compared to its sub-Saharan neighbors. However, a crackdown by the government before the country's January 2021 election, including frequent harassment of opposition candidates, sparked a level of unrest not seen in years.

As a BBC investigation published on Monday highlighted, more than 50 people were killed as police shot at civilians during a period of unrest in the capital, following the imprisonment of pop star and presidential candidate Bobi Wine. President Yoweri Museveni has been in power for 35 years. (RT)

(24) NATO to...

in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. Under a cooperation partnership tackling issues such as arms control and military education, Belarussian staff have been able to attend NATO meetings and seminars.

Last week NATO ambassadors said the diversion of the Ryanair flight and detention of Roman Protasevich "seriously violated the norms governing civil aviation and endangered the lives of the passengers and crew". Stoltenberg has branded it "a state hijacking".

The secretary-general's public comments were stronger than the actual NATO communiqué, and Reuters quoted diplomatic sources as saying that Turkey had pushed alliance partners into watering down the official reaction.

The US and European nations condemned a "blatant attack" on civilian aviation safety and international law. Protasevich's parents urged world leaders to ramp up sanctions against Belarus.

The journalist and outspoken critic of leader Alexander Lukashenko's regime was arrested after the plane landed in Minsk along with his girlfriend, Sofia Sapega.

No evidence was provided to back up the authorities' claims that the intervention was ordered over a bomb scare, with international leaders accusing Belarus of carrying out a ruse to arrest the dissident.

Tuesday's virtual NATO meetings are also expected to address the alliance's engagement in Afghanistan and developments in Ukraine, ahead of a full summit on June 14. (Euro News)

(25) Biden to...

support from Black voters, both in the Democratic primaries and the general election.

Biden has pledged to help combat racism in policing and other areas of life following nationwide protests after George Floyd's death a year ago that reignited a national conversation about race. Floyd, a Black man, was killed by white Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes. (AP)

(26) Vatican Law...

The law also removes much of the discretion that had long allowed bishops and religious superiors to ignore or cover up abuse, making clear they can be held responsible for omissions and negligence in failing to properly investigate and sanction errant priests.

Ever since the 1983 code was issued, lawyers and bishops have complained it was completely inadequate to deal with the sexual abuse of minors, since it required time-consuming trials. Victims and their advocates, meanwhile, have argued it left too much discretion in the hands of bishops who had an interest in covering up for their priests.

The Vatican issued piecemeal changes over the years to address the problems and loopholes, most significantly requiring all cases to be sent to the Holy See for review and allowing for a more streamlined administrative process to defrock a priest if the evidence against him was overwhelming. (AP)

Trudeau Promises Further Actions in Response to Discovery of Indigenous Children's Remains

OTTAWA - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday that his government will take further action in response to the discovery of the remains of 215 children in a former residential school in Kamloops city in western Canada. Amid calls for accountability and to go beyond lowering flags at federal buildings, Trudeau told a press conference that Canada's Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett and Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal will discuss what role his government should be playing. On Thursday, the Tk'emlups to Secwepemc First Nation in Kamloops city in British Columbia province announced that ground-penetrating radar uncovered the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.



The horrific discovery prompted calls for a national day of mourning and saw people across Canada set up memorials.

"As a dad, I can't imagine what it would feel like to have my kids taken away from me, and as prime minister, I am appalled

by the shameful policy that stole Indigenous children from their communities," said Trudeau. "We promised concrete action, and that's how we'll support survivors, families, and Indigenous peoples," said the prime minister. "Sadly, this is not an exception or an isolated incident. We're not going to hide from that. We have to acknowledge the truth. Residential schools were a reality, a tragedy that existed here, in our country, and we have to own up to it," added Trudeau. Opposition MPs urged the Trudeau government to fully fund the investigation of other former residential school sites and to put more sustainable funding towards healing initiatives. Green Party Leader Annamie Paul said the terrible discovery once again...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Attack on Ugandan Minister Leaves His Bodyguard Dead, Daughter also Reportedly Killed

An assassination attempt on a Ugandan minister has taken place in Kampala. His bodyguard and reportedly his daughter were killed in the attack, but the minister himself received only minor injuries and has been taken to hospital. On Tuesday morning, a car carrying Katumba Wamala, a former Ugandan army general and current minister of works and transport, was attacked in the Kampala suburb of Kisota. A spokeswoman for the army told Reuters that Wamala had sustained injuries and been taken to hospital. In photos and videos the minister can be seen standing by the car, his sleeves covered in blood. The spokeswoman also said the Wamala's bodyguard had been killed. Unconfirmed media reports claim the minister's daughter, Brenda Wamala, also died in the attack. Photos show a young woman lying across the backseats of the four-by-four. Bullet holes can be seen in the rear-right window, where she was sitting. Wamala previously served as the inspector general of police from 2001-2005 and the commander of the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) from 2013 until 2017, before transitioning into politics. ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

NATO to Meet After Belarus Officials Restricted from Headquarters

NATO foreign and defence ministers meet by videolink on Tuesday, the day after the Western military alliance moved to restrict access to its headquarters for a group of Belarus officials. The decision follows Minsk's intervention last month forcing a Ryanair flight from Athens to Vilnius to land in Minsk in order to arrest a dissident journalist, which caused outrage in the West. "We have decided to restrict the access of Belarusian personnel to the NATO headquarters based on our assessment of security measures at the headquarters," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters on Monday. The move is expected to affect about five officials, who will have their usual delegation badges removed, depriving them of some access to some areas of NATO's headquarters in Brussels. However, they will still be able to enter the complex as visitors. Although not a NATO member, Belarus has had a diplomatic mission in Brussels since 1998 after developing ties with the alliance ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Saudi Minister Defends Volume Limit on Mosque Loudspeakers

Saudi Arabia's Islamic affairs minister is defending a contentious order restricting the volume of mosque loudspeakers, saying it was prompted by complaints about excessive noise. In a major policy last week in a country home to the holiest Muslim sites, the Islamic affairs ministry said the speakers should be set at no more than one-third of their maximum volume. The order, which also limited the use of loudspeakers mainly to issue the call to prayer rather than broadcasting full sermons, triggered a conservative backlash on social media. Islamic Affairs Minister Abdullah al-Sheikh said on Monday the order was in response to citizens' complaints that the loud volume was disturbing children as well as the elderly. "Those who want to pray do not



need to wait for ... the imam's call to prayer, al-Sheikh said in a video published by state television. "They should be at the mosque beforehand," he added. Several television channels also broadcast prayers and Quran recitals, Sheikh said, suggesting the loudspeakers served a limited purpose. In a country home to tens of thousands of mosques, many welcomed the move to reduce the decibel levels. But the decision also ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Italy's Daily Virus Tally Sinks to Lowest Level Since Last Fall

ROME - Italy's daily coronavirus tally on Monday dropped to its lowest level since last fall, when a second wave resulted in new rounds of quarantine and travel restrictions. Italy's Ministry of Health said the country recorded 1,820 new infections in the previous 24 hours. That is the lowest one-day count since Sept. 29, 2020, when 1,650 new infections were recorded. Since then, coronavirus cases surged in a massive second wave, reaching one-day peaks of more than 40,000 new infections in November and fluctuating significantly before starting a steady decline in April. Other indicators were also positive: the one-day toll recorded Monday was 82, the fourth time in two weeks it was in double-digits. The strengthening coronavirus indicators come despite a gradual easing of restrictions in place since last year. On Monday, three of Italy's regions were classified as "white" zones, the least restrictive of the country's four-color classification scale. The other zones are all "yellow," the second least restrictive category, leaving no regions in the more restrictive "orange" and "red" categories. Italy has also opened its doors to international tourists who can prove they have been ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Biden to Honor Forgotten Victims of Tulsa Race Massacre

WASHINGTON - what was known as "Black Wall Street." In 1921 - on May 31 and June 1 - Tulsa's white residents and civil society leaders looted and burned to the ground the Greenwood district and used planes to drop projectiles on it. Up to 300 Black Tulsans were killed, and thousands of survivors were forced for a time into internment camps overseen by the National Guard. Burned bricks and a fragment of a church basement are about all that survive today of the more than 30-block historically Black district. America's continuing struggle over racial justice will continue to test Biden, whose presidency would have been impossible without overwhelming ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Macron Urges "Clarity" over Alleged U.S. Spying on Merkel, Others



PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that all must be clarified concerning reports that the United States intelligence agency had used the Danish infrastructure to spy on senior European officials, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel. This "is unacceptable between allies, even less between allies and European partners," Macron was quoted by French daily Le Monde following a French-German council of ministers. He urged "all the clarity." Denmark's national broadcaster DR News reported on Sunday that

Danish Defense Intelligence Service (FE) has given the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) open internet access to spy on senior politicians of neighboring countries, including Merkel. DR News, in collaboration with Swedish, Norwegian, German and French media, found out some "startling conclusions" in a secret internal investigation on the FE dubbed as "Operation Dunhammer," which was concluded in May 2015. A significant conclusion in the Dunhammer report, according to DR News, is that the NSA has purposefully obtained data and thus been able to clandestinely spy on targeted heads of state, as well as neighboring Scandinavian leaders, top politicians, and high-ranking officials in Germany, Sweden, Norway, and France. Earlier in the day, France's Secretary of State for European Affairs Clement Beaune told Franceinfo radio that what has been found by the media investigation "is ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

UN Watchdog: Access to Key Iranian Data Lacking Since Feb 23

The United Nations' atomic watchdog hasn't been able to access data important to monitoring Iran's nuclear program since late February when the Islamic Republic started restricting international inspections of its facilities, the agency said Monday. The International Atomic Energy Agency reported in a confidential document distributed to member countries and seen by The Associated Press that it has "not had access to the data from its online enrichment monitors and electronic seals, or had access to the measurement recordings registered by its installed measurement devices" since Feb. 23. While the IAEA and Iran earlier acknowledged the restrictions limited access to surveillance cameras at Iranian facilities, Monday's report indicated they went much further. The IAEA acknowledged it could only provide an estimate of Iran's overall nuclear stockpile as it continues to enrich uranium at its highest level ever. Iran started limiting inspections in a bid to put pressure on the government of U.S. President Joe Biden to lift crippling sanctions reimposed after then President Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran unilaterally in 2018. Under the deal, the IAEA placed around 2,000 tamper-proof seals on nuclear material and equipment. Those seals communicated electronically to inspectors. Automated measuring devices also provided real-time data from the program. Talks are currently ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Vatican Law Criminalizes Abuse of Adults by Priests, Laity

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis has changed church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes. The new provisions, released Tuesday after 14 years of study, were contained in the revised criminal law section of the Vatican's Code of Canon Law, the in-house legal system that covers the 1.3 billion-strong Catholic Church. The most significant changes are contained in two articles, 1395 and 1398, which aim to address major shortcomings in the church's handling of sexual abuse. The law recognizes that adults, too, can be victimized by priests who abuse their authority, and said that laypeople in church offices can be punished for abusing minors as well as adults. The Vatican also criminalized the "grooming" of minors or vulnerable adults by priests to compel them to engage in pornography. It's the first time church law has officially recognized as criminal the method used by sexual predators to build relationships with their victims to then sexually exploit them. ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

US Makes \$110mn by Selling Seized Crude, Allegedly Iranian, Report Suggests

The US government has reportedly made around \$110 million by selling off 2 million barrels of crude oil which it seized along with a tanker off the coast of the UAE after alleging that the product was Iranian. The cargo from the Liberian-flagged tanker MT Achilleas was unloaded in Houston, Texas and sold at around \$55 a barrel, the Associated Press reported, citing court documents. The money went to an escrow fund, similar to proceeds from previous operations. The national statistics, published by the US Energy Information Agency, listed Iran as one of the sources of crude in March, stating an import of 33,000 barrels per day, or about a million barrels of crude per month. According to AP, when asked about the import, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said: "Since the time of the former US president, Mr. Bill Clinton, no oil has been purchased from Iran because of their laws." In February, the US filed a legal complaint seeking to confiscate the oil aboard the Achilleas under terrorism forfeiture laws, as it was assumed that the money for the cargo would go to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRGC was designated as a terrorist ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Australian Court Upholds Ban on Most International Travel

CANBERRA - An Australian court on Tuesday rejected a challenge to the federal government's draconian power to prevent most citizens from leaving the country so that they don't bring COVID-19 home. Australia is alone among developed democracies in preventing its citizens and permanent residents from leaving the country except in "exceptional circumstances" where they can demonstrate a "compelling reason." Most Australians have been stranded in their island nation since March 2020 under a government emergency order made under the powerful Biosecurity Act. Libertarian group LibertyWorks argued before the full bench of the Federal Court in early May that Health Minister Greg Hunt did not have the power to legally enforce the travel ban that has



prevented thousands of Australians from attending weddings and funerals, caring for dying relatives and meeting newborn babies. LibertyWorks lawyer Jason Potts argued that Australians had a right to leave their country under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Australia had ratified. But the three judges ruled that submission was based on the "erroneous premise that the right is absolute." A person at the center of a coronavirus cluster in Melbourne had been allowed to attend a wedding in India. He was not infected ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Daily Outlook
Weather Forecast



Kabul	Sunny	Bamiyan	Sunny	Herat	Sunny	Mazar	Sunny	Kandahar	Sunny	Ghazni	Mostly sunny	Jalalabad	Sunny
32°C		21°C		41°C		42°C		42°C		30°C		40°C	
17°C		11°C		23°C		27°C		24°C		15°C		25°C	



Khalid Says Intl Forces May Continue Air Support After Pullout

KABUL - Defense Minister Asadullah Khalid on Tuesday said air support by international troops aiding Afghan forces might continue even after the end of the foreign military presence in Afghanistan if necessary. "The world has a commitment and agreement with us. When needed—if we want and need it—their air force will help us in areas where we need it," Khalid said. Khalid, in his first official appearance after several months away, in an address to a graduation ceremony of army special forces assured the Afghan forces that the country will not fall to militants. "This homeland will not fall to the enemy. We have good experience. We will not allow anyone to cause the fall of the army. We—and you—are the protectors of peace," Khalid said. He said that Afghan forces have proved they are capable of defending each and every corner of the country. He says Afghan forces are conducting operations independently. Khalid added that the Afghan government has made the utmost effort for peace, but the Taliban has continuously insisted on violence. He says the Taliban has no legitimate reason to continue the violence in the country. Khalid said he hopes that the Taliban ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (7)

Over 50% of Students at Herat University Are Girls



HERAT - Young women make up more than 50% of students at Herat University in the western province of Herat, with 5,500 enrolled in 71 different departments, according to data provided by the university. Herat University has at least 11,000 students.

Also, 56 percent of the applicants for the university entrance exam this year in Herat were girls. Ozra Aziz, who recently graduated with a master's degree, says she has finished high school and university in Herat and now wants to pursue a doctorate as well. "Today's Afghanistan is not like the past. Today, women can achieve their dreams. The biggest dream for women is to become educated," Ozra said. Ozra, who is a journalism student from Herat University, said she is now a lecturer at the university and is hopeful for a brighter future for Afghanistan. "Women can improve if conditions if they ..."

More on (Page 4)
Num (8)

Indian Company TCRC Blamed for Islam Qala Blaze



HERAT CITY - Indian company Therapeutics Chemical Research Corporation (TCRC) which is responsible for sample test at Islam Qala Port in western Herat province has been blamed for a fire breakout incident in the port in February this year, according to government investigation.

Basir Aryan, representative of affected vehicles owners in Islam Qala fire, told reporters here that the findings of the government investigation team showed that 1,254 trucks and oil tankers worth \$33 million were reduced to ashes in the fire incident. He said investigation showed that vehicles worth \$4 million turned scrap as a result of the huge fire, adding that the government will pay \$10,000 to every vehicle owner, with the total amount reaching \$8 million. He said in case the court of law found TCRC guilty, the company was bound to pay \$33 million to Afghan government in losses. He said under an agreement between affected vehicles owners and government, TCRC would have to pay \$33 million ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (11)

Fruit Farmers, Exporters Seek Market for Products



KABUL - As the harvest season for fresh fruit arrives, farmers and exporters say they lack domestic markets and are limited in selling fruit abroad in a cost-effective way. Security challenges and the influx of imported fruit, especially watermelon from Pakistan, have affected the local market for fruit

and have kept the prices low, leaving farmers with no choice but to sell at prices so low they do not cover costs. One instance, according to farmers, is the watermelon yield in Farah, which faces the same fate every year. Last year, farmers threw their products on the roads as they were left unsold due to lower prices and no storage facilities in the province. The farmers and investors said they fear a similar fate for the watermelon this year, too. When in season, seven kilograms of watermelon is sold for 50 Afs in Kabul markets (\$0.60), which farmers say is not enough to cover the expenses on their farms. One major setback for the fruit exporters ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (10)

4 Killed in Taliban's Car Bomb Attack on Police HQ in Baghlan

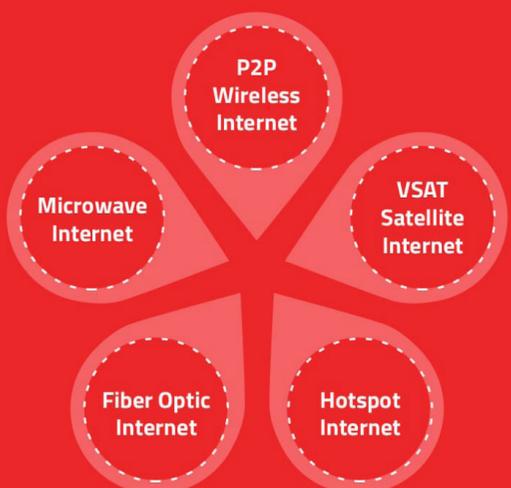
BAGHLAN - Four security force members were killed in a car bomb attack by the Taliban on the police headquarters in Baghlan-e-Markazi district in the northern province of Baghlan on Monday evening, officials said Tuesday.

The attack took place at around 6:30 pm local time when a Humvee loaded with explosives was detonated near the police headquarters in the district, Baghlan police said in a statement. The district police chief and some police officers were

wounded in the attack, a security official, who wished not to be named, said. According to the official, the attack was followed by a gunfight by some attackers who entered the police headquarters. ...

More on (Page 4)
Num (9)

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