

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

Steve Jobs

## US to Increase Aerial Strikes Supporting ANDSF: Mckenzie



KABUL - Head of Central Command General Frank Kenneth McKenzie told a press conference in Kabul that the US army has increased airstrikes in support of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and added to continue the strikes.

The CENTCOM commander was responding to journalists in former RS headquarter situated in the US embassy based in Kabul, Sunday.

The Taliban are trying to create a sense of inevitability which is wrong and their victory is not inevitable in Afghanistan, said McKenzie.

The top US commander affirmed that the US army will continue giving logistical support to Afghan Forces even post full withdrawal-August 31- but the support will be over the horizon.

US army's recent airstrikes hit fighting positions of the Taliban and equipment in southern ...

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## President Ghani Calls on CENTCOM Commander Mckenzie



KABUL - A delegation led by the US Marine commander of Central Command in their meeting with the Afghan president outlined further details of the recent telephonic call between the heads of two states.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and US President Joe Biden in their telephonic call on Friday reiterated the continuation of the partnership between the two countries.

General McKenzie and President Ghani in their Sunday meeting discussed the security situation of Afghanistan and priorities for gaining control over the situation.

The meeting too was focused upon support to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

Afghanistan Ministry of interior affairs recently said that a security plan will soon be implemented to recapture districts fallen to the Taliban over the past two months.

Earlier president Ghani had announced his new six-month security situation which he believes will change the security situation across the country.

US military has recently conducted four airstrikes in southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces in support to ANDSF which were condemned by the Taliban and warned consequences. (Khaama Press)

## Next High-Level Meeting on Peace Expected in August: Sources



DOHA - The next meeting of high-level delegations from both the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban will take place at the beginning of next month, sources close to the negotiating teams in Doha said.

The first meeting was held on July 16 and lasted for two days, during which delegates agreed to continue their meetings and expedite the peace efforts. However, attendees failed to reach an agreement on a ceasefire.

The sources said that efforts will be made through these meetings to achieve a framework for peace talks as the withdrawal of US and coalition forces is expected to be completed by the end of August.

"It will be helpful if an authoritative team attends the meeting this time, but if the delegation has less authority, it will not have an outcome," said former Taliban commander Sayed Akbar Agha.

The efforts for peace come as fighting continues on multiple ...

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## UN Reports 47 Percent Rise in Afghan Civilian Casualties in First Half of 2021



Civilian casualties in Afghanistan increased by 47 percent in the first half of 2021, the United Nations said in a report released Monday.

A total of 5,183 civilian casualties (1,659 killed and 3,254 injured) were registered in the Afghan conflict in the six months between January and June, a record level, according to the UN report. Nearly half of the civilian casualties happened in the last two months.

According to the report, nearly half of the casualties were women and children. 32 percent were children - 1,682 in total (468 killed and 1,214 injured) and 14 percent were women - 727 in total (219 killed and 508 injured).

Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) were responsible for 64 percent of the total civilian casualties: 39 percent by Taliban, nearly nine per cent by Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP), and 16 percent by undetermined AGEs.

Pro-Government Forces (PGFs) were responsible for 25 percent of civilian casualties: 23 percent by Afghan national security forces, and two percent by pro-Government armed groups or undetermined PGFs.

"I implore the Taliban and Afghan leaders to take heed of the conflict's grim and chilling trajectory and its devastating impact on civilians. The report provides a clear warning that unprecedented numbers of Afghan ...

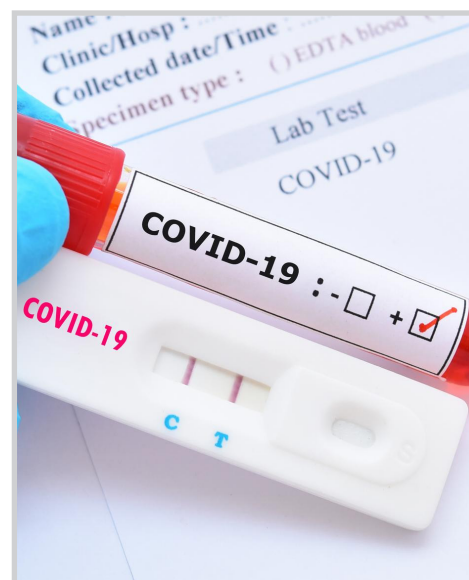
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## 708 New Cases of COVID-19, 35 Deaths Reported in Afghanistan

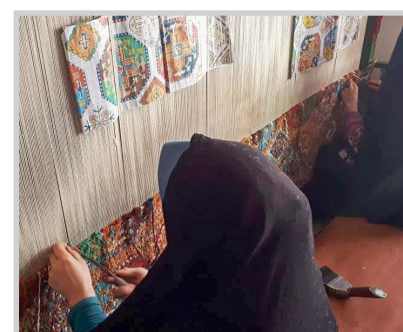
KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health on Monday reported 708 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 2,588 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

The ministry also reported 35 deaths and 594 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period. Data by the ministry shows that the total number of cases is 145,008 and total deaths stand at 6,515.

The total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the world stands at 194,188,533 and total deaths are at 4,161,529, according to Johns Hopkins University. (TOLO NEWS)



## Afghan Carpet Industry Facing Major Challenges: ACCI



KABUL - Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) said on Sunday that the Afghan carpet industry is facing numerous challenges despite the foreign aid that has been injected into the industry.

The ACCI said that the lack of a dedicated industrial park and a suitable place to produce carpets are a key challenge that they face.

Carpet makers also said that the drop in exports of Afghan carpets is a major problem.

Abdul Jabar Safi, head of the craftsmen association said despite millions of dollars having been spent and funding from USAID being received no dedicated industrial parks have been established in Andkhoy and Jalalabad - both carpet making hubs.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry meanwhile said efforts are being made to ...

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## Power Shortages in Kabul Hinder Industry: Private Sector

KABUL - The Afghanistan Chambers Federation has accused the Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the country's single electricity provider, of failing to sustain a necessary amount of electricity to citizens and businesses, saying that the power outages are causing serious harm in the manufacturing sector, especially in factories located in the capital city of Kabul.

Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, the federation's vice president, said the country's industry has experienced the worst year in 20 years in terms of available electricity. "Our industry owners lose tens

of thousands in each power cut-off. Also, Breshna is in a state of crisis and its leadership is incapable of managing the crisis," he said.

Kabul residents also complain about the outages and the shortage of electricity in homes and in businesses.

Thousands of dollars are being lost every day due to a lack of electricity for the manufacturing industry, said residents, stating that there has been no electricity in many parts of the capital since the passing of Eid al-Adha. In recent months electricity is sometimes limited to only three hours a day in parts



of Kabul city, residents say.

"When they provide electricity to a market they cut off the electricity to as many as 1,500 houses," said Abdul Samad, a resident of Chehelston.

"We had electricity for only three days ...

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## Female Police Officer Assassinated in Kapisa

KAPISA - A female police officer was assassinated by unknown armed men in Kapisa province on Sunday night, police confirmed. Abdul Shayeque Shoresah, a spokesman for the Kapisa police, stated that the incident took place in the Shirak Pirak area in the House Dowom-e Kohistan district of the province at around 9 pm Sunday.

The officer, who was a member of Kapisa prison security forces, was killed in her house, police added. Police stated that the motives behind the attack are yet to be determined.

Shoresah stated that an investigation started in this regard.

So far, no group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack. (ATN)



## SME LOAN

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## Tokayev and Putin Discussed Situation in Afghanistan

ASTANA - President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev have discussed the situation in Afghanistan with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, reports Akorda. "President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev had a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The heads of state discussed the situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the stability and security of Central Asia. They discussed importance of coordinated actions of the two states and other countries of the region in order to ensure their successful socio-economic development," reads the message. The President of Kazakhstan expressed gratitude to the Russian leader for the invitation to take part in the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, scheduled for September 2021. (Kaz Tag)



## Security Forces Retake Balk's Kaldara District from Taliban



KABUL - Security forces have retaken the Kaldara district in northern Balkh province from the Taliban, a statement from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Monday. Security forces alongside local uprising members have launched operation to free the district from the Taliban, the statement said.

Twenty Taliban were killed, scores injured and some flee the district as a result of the operation. It is pertinent to mention that the Taliban have captured over 180 districts in the past two months. Government, however, claimed liberating 25 districts from the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

## 18 Taliban, 2 Women Killed in Faryab Violence

MAIMANA - At least 18 Taliban insurgents and two civilians have been killed in separate incidents of violence in northern Faryab province, security sources said on Monday. Police chief Gen. Rohullah Khalil Oghli told Pajhwok Afghan News that yesterday evening, the Taliban fired seven artillery shells into the city of Maimana, with five shells hitting the airport near the headquarters of the First Brigade, and two more landing in front of the prison and the third police district of Maimana. He added two women were killed and a third civilian was wounded as a result of the shelling in different parts of Maimana. The source noted that public and military facilities were not damaged as a result of the artillery strikes. Faryab police spokesman, Abdul Karim Yorish told Pajhwok Afghan News that security



forces attacked a Taliban base in the Khwaja Namusi area of Pashtun Kot district last night after the Taliban shelling. He added that 18 Taliban were killed and a cannon and two tanks were destroyed in the government counter attack. He said Mufti Ismail, a senior Taliban member, and his five men were among those 18 killed. They were killed as a result of a landmine explosion that they were carrying in their vehicle. The Taliban confirmed the government attack in Khwaja Musa ...

## ENIC Process at A Snail's Pace: Balkh Residents

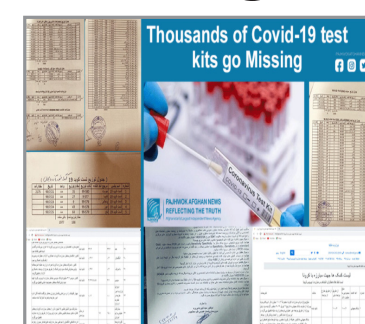
MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Residents of northern Balkh province complain about a slow-paced process of obtaining electronic National Identity Card (ENIC). Relevant authorities in the province acknowledge problems and challenges that have slowed down the process and said over 150,000 people in the province have registered for ENICs and awaiting the biometric process. Earlier, government made it compulsory for applicants of passport, retired officers and martyrs pensions to hold ENIC otherwise their applications would be rejected. The government announcement forced more people to refer to ENIC centres. Syed Abbas, a resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, said he registered for ENIC in April but after three months he still awaited his turn. "I have to get passport, my goodness I have no emergency



work, but before applying for passport I need to have ENIC. What would some people having an emergency situation do?" He said the government should open more offices of ENIC to facilitate people and ensure smooth processing. Rahmatullah, another resident of Mazar-i-Sharif, said that he has to take his ailing mother outside the country for treatment but he should first get her ENIC. Bashir Mahmoodi, head of the National Statistics and ...

## Thousands of Covid-19 Test Kits Go Missing

KABUL - Thousands of Covid-19 test kits donated by the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Russia, the Islamic Development Bank and UNDP are no longer available at the Ministry of Public Health, Pajhwok Afghan News findings show. Pajhwok has obtained the list of Covid test kits provided by foreign countries and institutions. It reads: "The test kits were donated to the ministry by WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, the Chamber of Commerce of Azerbaijan, China, International Atomic Energy Agency, Navid Hewad and Amotrex companies." Based on information from MoPH: 1 - China and the Chambers of Commerce donated 23,600 VTM samples 2 - UNDP provided 20 VTM kits 3 - IAEA delivered 10 DNA-RNA kits 4 - UNICEF gave 500 kits containing 10 cartridges 5 - 111,000 rapid test kits were delivered under the contract signed with Navid Hewad and Amotrex firms



6 - WHO provided 2,000 VTM kits 7 - 719 RNA kits and 250 test kits were donated by WHO 8 - 80 RNA extraction and 250 test kits were given by WHO 9 - Azerbaijan donated 2,175 test kits. But the list of donations from institutions and countries for combating Covid-19 published on the website of the Ministry of Finance says: • UAE provided 50,000 test kits worth \$3 million • Iran donated 5,000 kits • Russia provided 5,000 kits on June 2, 2020 • Islamic Development Bank delivered kits worth \$300,000 • UNDP ...

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Jul 27, 2021 - Act on your instincts and you won't go wrong, Aries. You may need to give up control and put logical thinking aside. Let the wind take you where it will. Explore your feelings and how others influence them. It will be just about impossible to solidify any plans today. You're better off exploring options and comparing notes with others. Don't pigeonhole yourself into one way of thinking.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Jul 27, 2021 - You have the missing piece that people need in every situation today, Taurus. Engage in light conversation in social situations, and turn your charm up high. You have the ability to make favorable impressions on just about everyone, so set the day off on the right foot. Get out of bed earlier than usual and get your blood pumping with a brisk walk around the neighborhood.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Jul 27, 2021 - People may want to talk a great deal, but they're avoiding their feelings today, Gemini. Put your emotions on the back burner and let your mind take over. Deal with the facts and make sure your emotions don't interfere with the information you receive. Things can get clouded if you don't stay true to the communication that's taking place. Be conscious of the impact of your words.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Jul 27, 2021 - You should be able to evaluate your emotions from a detached perspective today, Cancer. Use this opportunity to take action based on what you discover. Make sure your actions are based on practicality and you aren't acting rashly in response to someone else's hasty maneuvers. You will be amazed at the incredible things that develop if you think first.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Jul 27, 2021 - If you're talking about another person today, Leo, don't say anything that would upset them if they were standing next to you. Gossip may run rampant, but that's no excuse to contribute to it. Be aware that what you say has a strong impact on the people around you. It's likely to spread to many more ears than you think.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Jul 27, 2021 - It's important to take action on a day like this, Virgo. Trust yourself and your instincts. Often you have the perfect counsel for everyone but you. Keep in mind that you might have to turn to others for the best advice for you. Talk things out and then take action. Hesitation will only have negative consequences. You have all the facts you need.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Jul 27, 2021 - You might be unfocused and confused about which way to go, Libra. Your baffled look isn't giving others much confidence in your ability to make a good decision. Don't feel obliged to stay in an unhealthy situation. It may be time to let go and break some ties to things that are no longer working for you. Feel good about extracting yourself from old habits.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Jul 27, 2021 - It's important to get outside and feel the wind, Scorpio. Reconnect with nature and be aware of the four elements, especially the air. Take deep breaths and fill your lungs with the energizing life force. Imagine yourself on a mountain looking over a vast ocean. Expand your awareness so that nothing escapes your attention. Keep your head clear of clutter and be open to new adventures.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Jul 27, 2021 - Make practical use of the thoughts you've synthesized in the last few days, Sagittarius. Stretch your boundaries and extend your wisdom to the people around you. This is a day to take action. Connect with your heart and move forward with your plans. We normally think of our hearts as soft, tender, and vulnerable. Think of your heart today as tough, strong, and adventurous.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)

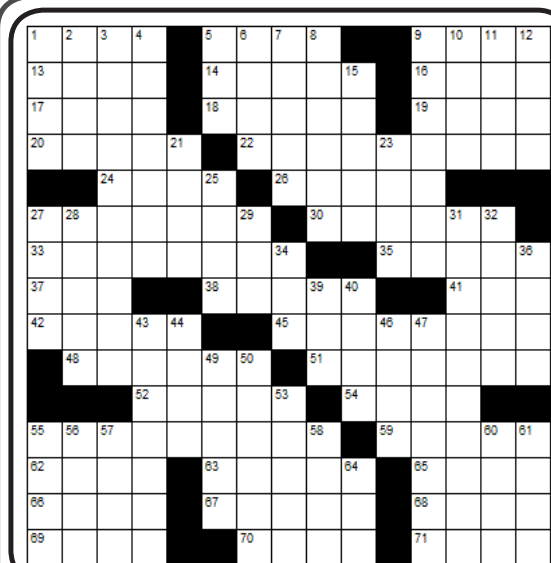
Jul 27, 2021 - This is an important day to make valuable connections, Capricorn. You will be engaged in fast-paced, witty conversations and debates from which you can learn a great deal. You're good at seeing both sides of an issue. The problem is that this can lead to indecisiveness and an inability to commit. Choose a path and stick to it.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Jul 27, 2021 - It may be hard for you to get a handle on things today, Aquarius. Your focus seems to jump from one problem to the next without finding resolution. This isn't a day to find a solution. You're better off researching, questioning, and gathering facts. Keep your channels of communication open, and don't try to pin anyone down for answers. You'll accomplish a lot by keeping active and light.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Jul 27, 2021 - You might come across strong opposition today. Someone may seem to want to cut straight through to your heart, Pisces. In reality, this is a message reminding you to think about things in terms of the collective, the oneness of all. Be aware of a greater perspective in which you see more than just your side of the issue. Discuss the issues with others before making any major decisions.



### Across

1. Quaint outburst, 5. A flat mass of ice, 9. Roman deity, 13. Hindu princess, 14. Charred, 16. Monster, 17. Decomposes, 18. Insect stage, 19. Indian music, 20. Narrow fissures, 22. Pillager, 24. Doofus, 26. Kills, 27. Roiled, 30. Napped (fabrics), 33. Mystical, 35. Rehabilitation, 37. Consume, 38. Dwarf, 41. Genus of macaws, 42. Preen, 45. Toward the outside, 48. Dung beetle, 51. Gunfighter, 52. Concentrate, 54. Data, 55. Not pessimists, 59. Philippine tribal chief, 62. Infamous Roman emperor, 63. Hindu loincloth, 65. Jump, 66. T T T T, 67. A pinnacle of ice, 68. Sensed, 69. Margarine, 70. Stringed instrument, 71. Circle fragments

### Down

1. Makes a mistake, 2. Jail (British), 3. Cures bacterial infections, 4. Warp, 5. A law enforcement agency, 6. Chunk, 7. Not written exams, 8. Overwhelm, 9. Anticipate, 10. Food thickener, 11. Desire, 12. Close, 15. Anagram of "Talon", 21. Achy, 23. One who colors cloth, 25. Large mass of ice, 27. Dribble, 28. Russian emperors, 29. Cacophony, 31. Driver of a chariot, 32. Front or back lawns, 34. Loving murmur, 36. Strong fiber, 39. Muck, 40. Decorative case, 43. A member of the Cosa Nostra, 44. A formal high school dance, 46. Make (one's way), 47. Sativa, 49. Corrosives, 50. Unit of dry measure (4 pecks), 53. Tale, 55. Savvy about, 56. Rind, 57. Tall woody plant, 58. Celebrity, 60. After-bath powder, 61. Chooses, 64. Frozen water

### Yesterday's Solution

LISTED: ALLAR, POWER, ANTE, BERE, BROSE, SCENTLESS, PRONG, TAPIR, WOODPILE, DARE, RAY, AR, DIAW, EVENTS, ATE, SUMO, LAIO, CODES, UMBRO, TIME, APE, TIPPLE, ALE, ALT, MONEYED, DELIVERER, DART, RIVEN, PHONO, HENNA, UN, A, T, REED, OCTET, MACE, READ, POISE, SLED, OOPS

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## Women Discriminated Sexually around the Globe

Stories of rape are making frequent headlines in the international media despite the human rights discourse. Women fall victims to gang rape simply for their gender distinction. Their inherent rights and dignity are trampled upon for being women.

The shocking events of raping women and female children in modern world, in which majority of nations claim to live a civil life and exercise democracy, will not only numb one's feelings but also cause mistrust in the discourse of democracy and human rights. These episodes will fill the air with a strong sense of disappointment.

Although the principle of "non-discrimination" on the grounds of one's color, race, gender, etc. is accepted by national laws and international instruments, women are still vulnerable to mistreatment, rape and violence on the basis of their gender. A number of women are not able to exercise their inherent rights and dignity freely. Their rights and dignity are violated and their freedoms are curtailed in many parts of the world for their gender.

Women suffer in many ways and they are susceptible to social, cultural and religious issues. For instance, if there are cultural restrictions, women are the first to encounter the consequences; if there are religious prohibitions, the issue of women's dressing will be the first to be affected. Worst of all, women are also exploited by radical ideologies and militants in modern era. Take the Islamic State group for example, on the one hand a number of women were employed to satiate the carnal desire of the militants, on the other hand, scores of women were raped in Iraq and elsewhere for practicing particular beliefs contrary to that of the militants.

Recently, a statement said to be issued by the Taliban says that the under-aged girls and widows have to be married to the Taliban's militant fighters, which has outraged all the people of Afghanistan, who are brought up in traditional culture and show strong sensitivity to the issues of women.

To view violence against women globally on the basis of their gender and religious beliefs, their pain and sufferings continue. A pregnant Muslim woman was kicked in the stomach by two men, who attempted to remove her headscarf and cut her hair, in France on 13 June 2013, according to Pew research, and suffered a miscarriage. By contrast, several women were attacked with paintball guns in Chechen capital of Grozny for appearing in public without wearing headscarves. Besides all other sufferings, laws and policies regarding the way of dressing also limit the freedoms of women in many countries. For example, many European countries, including France and Belgium, enforced laws to prohibit people from covering their faces in public places few years back. On the contrary, in the Middle East and North Africa, four countries – Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Sudan – had laws requiring women to wear religious attire. In Kenya, some government schools prevented girls from attending classes if they wore headscarves or other religious attire. Not only Muslims but also members of the Akorino group, which combines Christina and traditional African styles of worship, were affected by this policy of Kenya. To put it succinctly, a research carried out by Pew shows that within two years, 2012 and 2013, women were harassed for wearing religious dress in 33 of the 198 countries (17%). Furthermore, women were harassed for not abiding by religious dress codes in 23 of the 198 countries (12%). There were also five countries (3%) in which both types of harassment occurred within the two-year periods.

All the aforementioned issues show that women are still subject to gender discrimination and patriarchal mindsets and the cycle of violence against them continue both in traditional and modern societies.

According to international instruments, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and their inherent and inalienable dignity and rights must be respected and protected. Meanwhile, "freedom of religion" is highly cherished in international instruments and it is believed that all people are free to practice their religion and religious values, including their religious symbols and attire, and forcing one to discard their religious attire is against the international principle based on the recognition of the freedom of religion.

It is hoped that violators of human rights, mainly women's rights, will be prosecuted fairly and all individuals and nations could practice upon international principles and listen to the call of their conscience. It is further hoped that all men and women be able to enjoy their rights, dignity and freedoms equally and women no more fall the victims of violence or gender discrimination.

## Why the Taliban Cannot Win the War?

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Although the Taliban have had rapid advances in winning the battlefield and capturing about 200 districts throughout the country, they failed in winning the heart of the people. The horrible deeds and behavior of the Taliban have not only led to public hatred towards the Taliban but also led to a national consensus and national uprising in the country. The national uprising against the Taliban is similar to the national uprising against British power under the leadership of Amanullah Khan Ghazi and the national uprising against the Soviet Union during Mojadedin when all people including men, women, religious scholars, farmers, the young, the old, and all ethnic and religious groups stood against them without any warring facilities. If we carefully think about the recent ironic expression of the Turkey president, we can come to comprehend the logic of this comparison. However, the aggression and occupation of the Taliban are worse than the British and Soviet Union occupation in some cases.

In another word, the national uprising against the Taliban is not just because they run a proxy war in the country, but also because of their atrocity, ruthlessness, crimes against humanity, and moral crimes. In fact, the Taliban have shocked the nation and the world by continuing some horrible crimes in the area under their dominations. They crazily launched killing of the youths, sportsmen, social activists, traders, drivers, shopkeepers, and any clean-looking guy, active person, or educated individual. According to the latest UNAMA report, since the beginning of the current year, some 1,659 civilians were killed and another 3,254 wounded – a 47 percent increase compared with the same period last year. However, the UN may not have access to all information because they destroy communication networks where they dominate. Morally, they not only covet to wives and daughters of people but also loot their properties and crazily beheading armed and civilians in areas under their domination.

The Taliban cannot win the war because they are neither committed to the national interests and nor loyal to the Islamic values and teachings. According to Islamic teaching if someone kills a person as if he kills the whole of humanity, but killing the men and women is the easiest task for the Taliban. Without paying attention to consensus and collective fatwa of religious scholars, they audaciously shot civilians because of probable link with government. According to the latest official report from Boldak district, the Taliban audaciously killed a large number of civilians because they pertained to their rival tribes. Similar reports come from Malistan district that the Taliban have killed at least 43 people including women and children and also destroyed dozens of public and private properties such as public offices, schools, bridges, and shops people for different excuses. Apart from the aforementioned reasons and factors, the Taliban are subject to failure because they are stuck in a dark ideology which is in paradox of the soul of time and modern civilization. Given

the recent cruel deeds and behaviors in the occupied districts and also given the experience of Taliban rule in the 1990s, the people have good recognition from dogmatic ideology of the Taliban. It is not surprising that in 2015, 92 percent of all Afghans support the government in a national poll while only 4 percent supported the Taliban. Now, the people seem more pessimistic about the Taliban as they committed the worst crimes and violence after 2015.

The next reason for the failure of the Taliban is that they do not represent all religious, ethnic, and gender groups of the country. Even, they do not represent the entire Pashtun people as they killed thousands of innocent Pashtun people because they did not think like them or not pertained to their tribe. As above said, the Taliban killed hundreds of Pashtun people who pertained to the Achakzai tribe in Boldak district in recent days. Therefore, the Taliban neither have the support of Hazara, Tajik, and Uzbek and nor from Pushtun people.

Another factor for the failure of the Taliban is their addiction to use brutal tactics to reach power while this has weakened the group's own support in Afghanistan. As aforementioned, the Taliban fighters, like many insurgents or terrorist groups are brutally targeting civilians and government personnel. They audaciously shoot men, women, children, and also the soldiers who surrendered to the group. They are good at destruction, looting, and thieving but not constructing. This is about thirty years that they have been more or less active in Afghanistan but have not built anything in this country. Therefore, the people of Afghanistan have no good memory of them in the country. According to an Asia Foundation poll, about 93 percent of Afghans say they fear confronting the Taliban because of the group's extremist and ruthless views. That's why millions of people are displaced in the country after they dominate in the districts.

And lastly, the Taliban has no chance of victory because they are involved in illegal trades such as opium trade and cultivation. It is said that drug revenue accounts for more than half of the Taliban's total funding, and it is the sole source of income for local commanders of the Taliban. Local Taliban commanders fund their networks by imposing trade taxes, including on farmers. According to local sources, the Taliban once exported drugs in the form of opium syrup from Afghanistan, but now the group is increasingly setting up laboratories to process opium into morphine and heroin. Afghanistan exports about 80 percent of the world's opium and narcotics and the Taliban's actions have helped keep Afghanistan the world's largest producer and exporter of opium in the world. Therefore, the victory of the Taliban is more likely to be a dream because they have no genuine supporters in the country and also in the world.

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## How to Strengthen Anti-Poverty Efforts

By: Shameran Abed

From 1990 to 2019, the number of people living in extreme poverty (according to the World Bank threshold of \$1.90 per day) plummeted, from 1.9 billion to 648 million. COVID-19 has reversed much of this progress. By the end of 2021, the pandemic will have pushed approximately 150 million people back into extreme poverty. Even before COVID-19, however, the world was not on track to end extreme poverty in the next decade. Progress on poverty reduction had been slowing long before the pandemic hit, with global poverty rates falling by less than half a percentage point per year between 2015 and 2019. At that pace, even without COVID-19, 537 million people would have still been living in extreme poverty in 2030, implying failure to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1.

At BRAC, the world's largest Global South-led NGO, decades of designing, implementing, advising on, and adapting poverty reduction interventions have given us insights into how to make anti-poverty programs and policies more effective.

First, programs need to reach people in the most extreme states of poverty. People living in extreme poverty face hurdles to accessing social programs and services. They are less likely to have bank accounts, permanent addresses, or formal identification – all of which may be required for registration. They also face social stigma associated with receiving public services, and often lack sufficient information about the programs for which they are eligible.

In low-income countries, 79% of the bottom quintile of earners receive no social assistance whatsoever. To ensure that help reaches those most in need, governments and their partners must design policies and programs that overcome the barriers people living in extreme poverty face and integrate them into existing social safety nets.

Second, programs must empower people living in extreme poverty to build long-term resilience. Governments and their partners must do more than improve the provision of basic needs. They must also invest in enabling people in extreme poverty to acquire the skills and resources they need to avoid falling back into the poverty trap. This approach is crucial in times of crisis, as our team at BRAC found when advising the Philippine government, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, on a recent anti-poverty intervention.

During the pandemic, the program connected participants to cash assistance from the national government and food assistance from their local government. Meanwhile, it provided the resources and training they needed to establish multiple sources of income. As a result, 76% of participants were able to continue earning income even during strict lockdowns.

Third, programs need to treat poverty as multifaceted and context-specific. Extreme poverty is multidimensional. An accurate definition must



account for the many areas of deprivation people living in extreme poverty face, from lack of clean water and electricity to malnutrition and social exclusion. These deprivations and the interventions needed to overcome them vary across populations and geographies. Based on an assessment of factors related to specific locations and socioeconomic contexts, governments and their partners need to create more holistic interventions that empower poor people to face their unique challenges.

Fourth, these programs must engage local communities and governments, whose active participation can help anti-poverty interventions better reflect the realities of people's daily lives and gain local buy-in. Bringing civil society into the process can also play an important role in holding government accountable and sustaining demand for more effective programs and policies. And local governments can help national governments and their partners identify marginalized households and support their social inclusion.

Fifth, governments and their partners must learn what is working and what is not, then adapt programming accordingly. To maximize the impact of anti-poverty interventions at scale, governments and their partners must commit to monitoring, evaluating, and learning from programs as they are implemented, then revise them as needed.

Such evaluations should begin by identifying the principles driving programs' design. Program components must then be tweaked and tested with those principles in mind, and the outcomes carefully monitored. Only through evidence-based adaptation can governments and their partners ensure that the programs they implement have a long-lasting impact and adjust to meet the unique and evolving needs of their people.

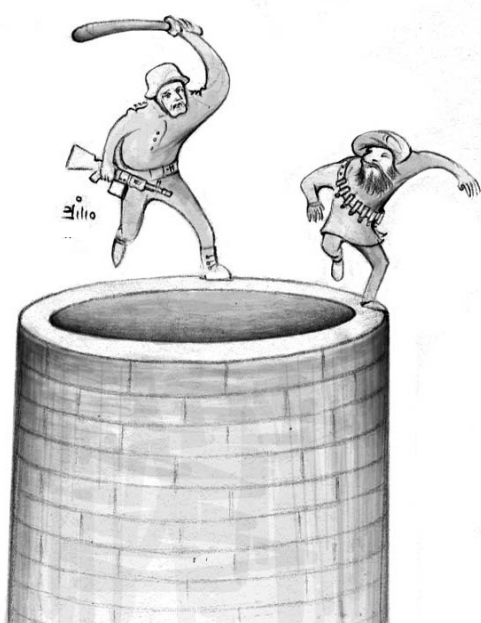
This must be a collaborative effort. If the international community adopts these steps, anti-poverty programs and policies can become more inclusive, adaptive, and comprehensive. Beyond engaging civil society and academia, governments need development actors, including multilateral institutions and donor countries, to help close resource gaps until they can independently mobilize sufficient domestic resources. Many low- and middle-income countries simply lack the fiscal space and state capacity to pursue large-scale poverty reduction measures on their own.

SDG 1 is deeply connected to the other SDGs, from ensuring gender equality to advancing sustainability to improving nutrition. COVID-19 has reversed decades of progress in these areas, and we need cross-cutting interventions that support multiple areas of development simultaneously if we are to recover.

The only way to prevent leaving many people behind is to ensure that anti-poverty interventions are better funded, more holistic, and more effective at scale.

*Shameran Abed is Senior Director of Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation Programs at BRAC.*

➔ No Comments





### (1) US to Increase ...

Kandahar and Helmand provinces. McKenzie in his press conference on Sunday evening acknowledged the Afghan government to face tough days ahead and added that it will be clear in upcoming days and weeks whether ANDSF is able to defend the country from the Taliban. He too denied the potential eruption of any civil war in Afghanistan. The top US commander in Afghanistan talks about their aerial support to ANDSF at a time when the forces are busy fighting the Taliban in almost all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. In recent confrontations, the Taliban toppled two districts of eastern Kunar province but the Afghan forces have launched counterattacks. (Khaama Press)

### (2) Next High ...

fronts that have led to the fall of a large swath of territory to the Taliban. Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, in an interview with Al Jazeera, said the conflict in Afghanistan has no military solution. "Since we think that peaceful settlement is much, much better option than the continuation of the war, we will continue to make these efforts," Abdullah said. But some analysts said the efforts in Doha for peace talks should be expedited and it should not take more time. "The ordinary people will be damaged as much as the negotiations are prolonged. It is better that these talks are expedited," said Gul Rahman Qazi, head of an Afghan political party. (TOLO NEWS)

### (3) UN Reports ...

civilians will perish and be maimed this year if the increasing violence is not stemmed," said Deborah Lyons, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. The envoy called on the Taliban and Afghan leaders to "intensify your efforts at the negotiating table, stop the Afghan against Afghan fighting. Protect the Afghan people and give them hope for a better future." UNAMA attributed 11 percent of all civilian casualties to crossfire during ground engagements where the exact party responsible could not be determined and other incident types, including unattributable unexploded ordnance/explosive remnants of war. Civilian casualties attributed to AGEs increased by 63 percent compared with the same period in 2020, while civilian casualties attributed to PGFs increased by 30 percent. The leading causes of civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 were the extensive use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by AGEs, ground engagements between parties, targeted killings by AGEs, and air strikes by the Afghan Air Force. The UN report also highlighted that 20 incidents targeted Shi'a/Hazara during the period, resulting in 500 civilian casualties (143 killed and 357 injured). (ITV NEWS)

### (4) Power Shortages ...

during Eid and there was no electricity after that. But our electricity bills are always between 2,000 Afghani and 4,000 Afghanis," said Abdul Khaliq, a resident in the Darulaman area of Kabul. "There is electricity for only two to three hours around the clock, but when you see at the electricity bills nowadays, they are more than the previous years' bills," said Kabul resident Navid. Breshna has faced criticism from industry figures before, who say that the company has significantly overextended the electricity network in recent years without accurately taking into account its supply capacity. "Breshna is trying to provide regular electricity to the citizens," said Niazi Sangar, a spokesman for Breshna. According to official figures, Kabul's electricity network currently needs 520 megawatts of electricity, and a Breshna spokesperson has said that there is only 260 megawatts of electricity available for the capital city, therefore the company has to cut off the electricity in Kabul for 16 hours every 24 hours. (TOLO News)

### (5) Afghan Carpet ...

resume the traditional craft of carpet making in order to preserve the Afghan carpet industry's uniqueness. The ministry said that they have assisted carpet producers recently. "It (new carpet industry) undermines the credibility of Afghan carpets. One good point of the Afghan carpet sector is that it provides 100,000 jobs for people especially for women," said Fawad Ahmadi, spokesman for the ministry. Analysts say that the carpet production industry will come to an end if government does not address the carpet producers' challenges. (ATN)

### (6) ANDSF Kill ...

of civilian casualties. As per the report, nearly 4,500 civilian people have been killed and wounded in

Afghanistan which is the highest ever since UNAMA started recording the death toll in 2009.

The Taliban in a statement reacted to the number and dubbed it one-sided. (Khaama Press)

### (7) Afghanistan's Army ...

helicopters to Kabul, while also helping to train Afghan soldiers. However, Delhi has so far shied away from backing Afghanistan in a more vocal manner, amid calls by Kabul to bolster its air power capabilities and send arms and ammunition. In a recent interview, Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Farid Mamundzay called for military hardware, intelligence, and logistical support for Afghanistan to combat the Taliban, including a "large percentage of foreign fighters." When asked if India was planning on ramping up its military supplies to Kabul, India's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that ties between the two nations were "guided by the Strategic Partnership Agreement" signed in October 2011. (Sputnik News)

### (8) Austrian PM ...

new flow of asylum seekers to the EU, the officials said. The ongoing withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan after almost two decades has galvanized the Taliban, who could retake control of large parts of the country, spurring a new flow of refugees. (Dubar English)

### (9) People Lose ...

terms of ensuring peace in Afghanistan. The Taliban have captured 190 districts in the past 10 months and the situation has reached a dangerous level where the government banned night movement in 31 provinces except Kabul, Nangarhar and Panjshir provinces. Pajhwok talked to youth in different provinces regarding the ongoing fighting, insecurity, continuation of peace talks in Doha, Afghan conundrum and the future of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Ex-CIA Agent ...

criticized the American presence in Syria, which takes place despite the fact that the current government of President Bashar Al-Assad did not ask the United States to intervene in the long civil conflict. "At the same time, American troops illegally present in neighboring Syria, continue to occupy that country's oil fields to deprive the government in Damascus of much needed resources. Neither Iraq nor Syria threatens the United States in any way," Giralddi noted. According to the former military spy, given that history, it should come as "no surprise that the withdrawal from the twenty-year-long nation-building project in Afghanistan, long overdue, is not quite going as smoothly as the Pentagon and White House apparently planned." "US forces pulled out of their principal base in the country, Bagram Air Base, in the middle of the night without informing the incoming Afghan base commander. A frenzy of looting of the left-behind equipment followed," Giralddi wrote. And in general, the Taliban movement in Afghanistan "is racking up victory after victory against US and NATO trained Afghan government forces who have the disadvantage of having to defend everywhere, making them vulnerable to attacks on an opportunity basis", he added. He also noted that the Taliban "plausibly" claim to control at least 85% of the countryside, including numerous significant towns and provinces as well as crossing points into Pakistan. "The US government is quietly expecting a similar fate for the thousands of Afghans who collaborated with the regime installed by Washington and is hurriedly arranging for visas to get the most vulnerable out, eventually seeking to resettle them in friendly Middle Eastern countries as well as in the US," he commented on the issue of evacuating Afghans who collaborated with the US forces from the country in light of the growing threats against them. Given that some 18,000 local residents working for the US have requested evacuation from Afghanistan and that they will certainly take their families with them, Giralddi notes that there exists "particular concern" that former translators "will be most particularly targeted". All in all, the author reckoned that the US involvement in Afghanistan in "the struggle to rid the world of the wrong kind of terrorists" has left the country "weaker and more unfocused" than it was in 2001. "A recent 23-page report suggests that since Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's February order to 'stand down' the entire US military for commanders to address "extremism" in its ranks has sunk morale and many top soldiers have either retired or quit in disgust," he explained, adding, "During his confirmation hearings, Austin pledged that he would 'rid our ranks of racists and extremists' but the reality is quite different, with the witch hunt in the ranks and endless promotion of diversity

even hurting normal military readiness training."

As President Biden pledged to complete the military withdrawal by the end of August, and the whole military presence in the war-torn nation will be reduced to a battalion of soldiers to secure the Embassy and CIA station in Kabul, Giralddi notes that the situation in itself is "not sustainable unless some kind of workable Afghan government coalition can be achieved". However, referring to the Taliban's successful offensive, he figures that this "appears to be increasingly unlikely". And thus the US will have to maintain a vital direct link to the city's airport, for which the administration is negotiating with Turkey to maintain a contingent. Although Turkey has agreed to this mission, the Taliban have already stated that the presence of the Turkish military on the territory of the airport is unacceptable and will lead to retaliatory military actions by the group. In addition, the US is trying to negotiate with Afghanistan's neighbors on the deployment of its military for the possibility of over-the-horizon military strikes on the country, and according to Giralddi, there "are few options as the US would not be able to launch cruise missile or airstrikes through the neighboring countries that surround Afghanistan to the South, East and West, though a long-distance strike from warships in the Persian Gulf is technically possible." (FNA)

### (11) 6m Electronic ...

of interior, defense, education, public health, rural rehabilitation and development and public works were in priority of digitalization. The president directed general director of Administrative Affairs of the President and NSIA head to prepare a solution to problems in the e-ID cards area and submit it to the cabinet. He said that digitalization would help ease transactions and make effective services and implementation of infrastructural projects. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Schools Cannot ...

health advice and social distancing. The ministry also said schools in cold provinces should the mid-term exams from July 24 to 27. The exam should be held on July 28, taking into account health measures, it added. Preparations for the mid-term exam have been underway since July 24 in public and private schools. But a number of Kabul citizens, whose children are enrolled in private schools, say management has been demanding the payment of June and July fees. Abdul Basit, a resident of Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Afghanyar High School had asked his brothers to pay the June and July fees, though it did not provide any services during the period. Jamshid Popal alleged Jahan Number 4 School had warned his children of being barred from sitting the mid-term exam if they did not pay fees for June and July. Parents want MoE to take action over what they call inordinate demand of private schools. But MoE spokesman, Najiba Aryan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the private schools that did not provide services during the two months were not entitled to collect fees. She promised action against the schools insisting on fee recovery for the quarantine period. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Nangarhar Marble ...

that the investment in these factories in Sheikh Mesri Industrial Park and in the 7th police district of Jalalabad city stood at \$30 million. He said that the factories processed around 30,000 tons of marble each year. Besides a number of provinces, the marble of Nangarhar is also exported to Italy, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan, he said. Meanwhile, Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani assured that there was no any security problems for businesspeople and investors and all people could create jobs by opening factories. Some problems previously existed in electricity area, but now the problems had been solved in Sheikh Mesri Industrial Park, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (14) 18 Taliban ...

area and destruction of a cannon and a tank but denied the killing of their fighters. A credible Taliban source in Faryab, who declined to be named, denied the killing of Mufti Ismail and any of his men. However, he confirmed that Mufti Ismail yesterday after Zuhur prayers was about to get into his car when an IED attached to his vehicle exploded and as a result Ismail and his driver, Makhdoom Ahmad, suffered light wounds. (Pajhwok)

### (15) ENIC Process ...

Information Authority (NSIA) for Balkh, confirmed complaints by applicants and added over 150,000 people awaited their turn for the ENIC. Mahmoodi said one shift processed common applicants and in the second shift ap-

plicants with emergency situation or government employees are facilitated. He said over 100,000 people have received their ENIC since the opening of the process in Balkh province. Mahmoodi added they had demanded opening of two more ENIC distribution centres in Mazar-i-Sharif. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Thousands of ...

provided MoPH test and protection kits worth \$2.45 million from its domestic budget through the International Islamic Institute for Culture and Education. The MoF list indicates in addition to other assistance, partner institutions and countries donated diagnostic kits worth millions of dollars the MoPH. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Cultural Sites ...

temple began in 1213 and is believed to have continued for over some 40 years. The temple's sculptures of high artistic quality illustrate regional dance customs and Kakatiyan culture and the choice of setting for the edifice followed the ideology and practice sanctioned in dharmic texts that temples are to be constructed to form an integral part of a natural setting, according to the committee. The 1,394-kilometer-long trans-Iranian Railway connects the Caspian Sea in the northeast with the Persian Gulf in the southwest, crossing two mountain ranges as well as rivers, highlands, forests and plains, and four different climatic areas. Started in 1927 and completed in 1938, the railway is notable for its scale and the engineering works it required to overcome steep routes and other difficulties. Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, the 200-hectare cultural landscape is located at the urban heart of Madrid. Evolved since the 16th century, the avenue and buildings in the site "illustrate the aspiration for a utopian society during the height of the Spanish Empire," said the committee. The session of the World Heritage Committee reviews candidates for entry to the list, and examines the state of conservation of existing sites. The inscription is scheduled to continue through July 28. (Xinhua)

### (18) UN Chief ...

goal, increasing adaptation and resilience support to at least 50 percent of total climate finance and getting public and multilateral development banks to significantly align their climate portfolios to meet the needs of developing countries, he said. Guterres said he intended to use the opportunity of the upcoming UN General Assembly high-level session to bring leaders together to reach a political understanding on these critical elements of the package needed for Glasgow. (Xinhua)

### (19) Knife-Wielding ...

detained and security officers have not suggested that the other individual is being sought in connection with the attack. Security services described the attack as "an isolated action," seemingly dismissing potential links to the ongoing insurgency within the country and surrounding Sahel region that has been ongoing for a decade. Mali has been under the control of Colonel Goita since May 2021 after he seized power in a coup. The country's government has been seeking to reestablish stability in the region, with the support of France. (RT)

### (20) Al Jazeera Says ...

freedom of the press. The reported raid took place a day after President Saied froze parliament activities, stripped MPs of their immunity, and fired Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi. Saied argued the move was in line with the country's constitution and necessary in order to "save the state" amid a social upheaval. Opponents immediately accused the president of launching a coup. Rached Gannouchi, the speaker of Tunisia's parliament, labeled Saied's actions as unconstitutional and "illegal." Soldiers and armored vehicles were deployed to fend off the protesters from the parliament building, where clashes broke out on Monday. Prevented from entering the compound, Gannouchi and opposition MPs began a sit-in outside the parliament. Anti-government protests intensified this week in Tunisian cities as people rallied over the handling of Covid-19, economic hardships, and police violence. Tunisia's current political system was created several years after longtime President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was ousted in 2011 during the Arab Spring. (RT)

### (21) French Parliament ...

July 24, protests across France intensified in opposition to Macron's health pass, which many claim is a coercive move to force people into taking the vaccine. There were 160,000 people protesting across the country on Saturday, chanting "liberty, liberty!" Signs that read 'Down with the dictatorship', in reference to Macron's measures, were also seen. The demonstrations, which have been active since the start of July, are rapidly growing in strength, with the recent protests boasting some 50,000 more people

than those held a week ago. One of the major protests on Saturday, organized by French nationalist party Les Patriotes, took place at the Trocadero Square in Paris and appealed for more freedom and human rights. Similar protests kicked off around Europe on Saturday, namely in Rome and Athens, where people opposed the vaccine. According to the official data, 60% of adults in France are now fully vaccinated. Since the start of the pandemic, France has recorded 111,806 Covid-19 deaths. (RT)

### (22) Senators ...

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he wants to pass the nearly \$1 trillion bipartisan package as well as the blueprint for a larger \$3.5 trillion budget plan before the Senate leaves for its August recess. He held a procedural vote last week to begin debate on the bipartisan framework, but all 50 Senate Republicans voted against it, saying they needed to see the full details of the plan. The White House wants a bipartisan agreement for this first phase, but as talks drag on anxious Democrats, who have slim control of the House and Senate, could leave Republicans behind and try to go it alone. If it fails, it could be wrapped into the broader package of Biden's priorities that Democrats are hoping to pass later. The bipartisan package includes about \$600 billion in new spending on public works projects. Democrats want to see more of the money go toward boosting public transportation, which includes subways, light-rail lines and buses, in line with Biden's original infrastructure proposal and the push to address climate change.

The bipartisan group originally appeared to be moving toward agreement on more money for transit. But Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, the top Republican on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which oversees public transit, raised questions. He cited, in part, previous COVID-19 federal relief money that had already been allocated to public transit. "Nobody's talking about cutting transit," Toomey said Sunday. "The question is, how many tens of billions of dollars on top of the huge increase that they have already gotten is sufficient? And that's where there is a little disagreement." Typically, spending from the federal Highway Trust Fund has followed the traditional formula of 80% for highways and 20% for transit. Democratic Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Tom Carper of Delaware say they will oppose the deal if transit funding falls below that. The White House has declined to say whether Biden would push for the additional funding for transit. (AP)

### (23) Chinese Medical ...

2013, the China medical team has offered free medical services in South Sudan and also helped with the capacity building of health workers and medical students in the world's youngest nation. (Xinhua)

### (24) Spain's Emergency ...

agricultural land. The emergency teams evacuated at least 168 people from several towns, including many scattered in rural areas. The affected area, between the towns of Santa Coloma de Queralt and Sant Marti de Tous in Tarragona, is around 100 kilometres west of Barcelona. Authorities are still investigating the causes of the fire.

Forest fires are a recurring threat in Spain, like in much of southern Europe, every summer. At least half a dozen wildfires were fought over the weekend, including one in eastern Spain's Albacete province that was only brought under control after burning over 2,500 hectares.

The president of the Catalan government, Pere Aragonés, spoke to the Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, about the ecological disaster and has called on citizens to still avoid any activity in Catalonia's natural environment to prevent fires. (Euro News)

### (25) PM Imran Khan's ...

the territory's capital. Polling was temporarily interrupted in that and several other constituencies due to violence. Also on Sunday, four Pakistani soldiers died and four other personnel were injured when their vehicle met with an accident in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir area of Laswa, Pakistan's military said in a statement. The soldiers were deployed to provide security during the polls. (Aljazeera)

### (26) Mozambican ...

terrorism alone. Mozambicans will be at the forefront as they know the terrain better," Nyusi said. "We are a sovereign country and will continue to be." He said that although the country received proposals for military support from several countries, the first approach would be to rely on the regional organization, the SADC. (Xinhua)



## Cultural Sites in China, India, Iran, Spain Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

PARIS- Four sites in China, India, Iran and Spain have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, announced the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on Sunday.

Those sites include "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China", "Ramappa Temple" in India, "Trans-Iranian Railway" in Iran, and "Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro", a landscape of arts and sciences in Spain, the UNESCO said in a press release.

The east China's port city of Quanzhou, once hailed as "the very great and noble city" by the Italian explorer Marco Polo, won the prestigious status and brought the total number of China's UNESCO World Heritage sites to 56.

Located on narrow plains along the coastline of Fujian province, Quanzhou was one of the world's largest

ports along the historic Maritime Silk Road, particularly in ancient China's Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

The serial properties in Quanzhou include 22 sites of administrative buildings and structures, religious buildings, and statues across the city.

The properties encompassed multi-cultural communities, cultural memorial sites and monuments, the production of ceramics and iron, and a transportation network formed of bridges, docks and pagodas that guided voyagers.

The committee, during its 44th session held online and chaired from Fuzhou, China, also added some other sites, including Kakatiya Rudreshwara in the State of Telanganam in India, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, to the list.

The construction of the sandstone Shiva ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



## UN Chief Calls for Leadership of G20 on Climate Action

UNITED NATIONS- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called for leadership of the Group of 20 (G20) on global climate action.

"The world urgently needs a clear and unambiguous commitment to the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement from all G20 nations. There is no pathway to this goal without the leadership of the G20," he said in a statement on the G20 ministerial meeting on environment, climate and energy. "This signal is desperately needed by the billions of people already on the front lines of the climate crisis and by markets, investors and industry who require certainty that a net-zero climate-resilient future is inevitable," he said.

Science shows that in order to meet this ambitious, yet achievable goal, the world must achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and cut dangerous greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030 from 2010 levels. But the world is way off track, said Guterres.

With less than 100 days left before the UN Climate Change Confer-



ence in Glasgow, Scotland, he urged all G20 and other leaders to commit to net-zero by mid-century, present more ambitious 2030 national climate plans and deliver on concrete policies and actions aligned with a net-zero future, including no new coal after 2021, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and agreeing to a minimum in-

ternational carbon pricing floor as proposed by the International Monetary Fund.

The Group of Seven and other developed countries must also deliver on a credible solidarity package of support for developing countries, including meeting the 100-billion-U.S.-dollar ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Knife-Wielding Assailant Dies in Custody Days after Being Detained over Attempted Assassination of Mali's Leader

The individual accused of attempting to assassinate Mali's president during a knife attack at a mosque in Bamako on Tuesday has died in custody after he was taken to hospital when "his state of health deteriorated."

During prayers at a service marking the Eid al-Adha holiday in the Bamako Grand Mosque, an attacker attempted to stab Mali's interim president, Colonel Assimi Goita, before being overpowered by security officers and thrown into a military truck. Goita, unharmed, was quickly surrounded by bodyguards and moved to safety, but another individual who was sitting behind him was injured. A statement released by

Mali's government said that the alleged aggressor had died after being moved to hospital when "his state of health deteriorated," with an investigation into the cause of death being conducted.

As he was participating in prayers, the knife-wielding man approached the country's leader and tried to stab him in the neck but, according to Mali's prime minister, Choguel Maiga, Goita's training as a special forces officer and "instinct helped prevent the aggressor from reaching his objective." While media reports had initially claimed that two individuals were involved in the attempted assassination, only one person was ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Spain's Emergency Services Hope Rain Will Help Extinguish Catalonia Forest Fires

Spanish firefighters say that soft rainfall is helping to extinguish a major forest fire in the northeastern Catalonia region.

The fire has destroyed over 1,600 hectares since it began burning on Saturday evening. Joan Ignasi Elena, the region's interior councillor, said that emergency workers were hoping to bring the flames under control by the end of Monday. Ninety percent of the fire was no longer expanding after more than 300 firefighters and members of a Spanish military emergency unit had surrounded it,

he added.

Planes and helicopters have been dumping water on the burning hills, while forecast rain is also expected to help.

Residents in two towns had been ordered on Sunday to stay indoors but they were allowed out by the early hours of Monday.

Regional authorities say that flames fanned by high temperatures and strong winds had burned by Monday nearly 1,300 hectares of woodland — most of them in a protected natural area — and over 300 hectares of ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## Israel Says it Struck Hamas Military Base after Arson Balloon Launch

The Israel Defense Forces said early Monday that it conducted military strikes on a Hamas base in response to an arson balloon launch. The IDF said the base — which is near civilian sites, including a school — contained infrastructure "and means used for terror activity." "We will continue to respond to any terror attempts from Gaza," the statement said. The airstrike came several hours after the incendiary balloons were launched into Israel by activists linked to Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group. Photos and video posted on social media showed them sending the balloons into Israel. On

one of them was written the message: "Time is running out." Prime Minister Naftali Bennett the right-wing leader who was once former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief of staff, has said that he would approach balloon attacks with the same seriousness as if they were rockets. The launches came two months after an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas. The Islamic militant group is upset that Israel has done little to ease a crippling blockade on the territory since the fighting ended, and over delays in indirect negotiations with Israel to resume Qatari financial aid to Gaza. (Fox News)

## PM Imran Khan's Party Wins Pakistan-Administered Kashmir Polls

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has won a majority of seats in elections for the legislative assembly of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, preliminary results say.

According to unofficial results released by the election commission, Khan's PTI won 25 out of 45 seats in the polls held on Sunday.

The opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won 10 seats, while the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) won six.

Polling was held across the Himalayan territory, home to 4.04 million people, and in certain districts in Pakistan

where large populations of Kashmiri migrants live.

Pakistan and India both claim the entire territory of Kashmir but administer separate parts of it, divided by a Line of Control (LoC).

Voting on Sunday followed a hotly contested campaign between Pakistan's main political parties, with violence erupting in at least one constituency on Sunday.

At least two people were killed and several others wounded when a clash occurred between supporters of the PTI and the PPP in the town of Kotli, about 100km (62 miles) south of Muzaffarabad, ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## Mozambican President Confirms Presence of Rwandan Troops in Terrorism Fight

MAPUTO- Rwandan troops have been in Mozambique since July 9, helping fight terrorists in its northern province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi has confirmed.

It was the first time for the Mozambican leader to comment on the substantial involvement of foreign troops in the country, following an agreement reached by Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries last month to militarily help Mozambique combat terrorism.

"A Rwandan contingent, comprising a

military and police component, has been in our country since 9th of July, and we have formally notified the Southern African Development Community about the matter," Nyusi said in his televised speech to the nation on Sunday night.

The president said Mozambique requests support from Rwanda for its experience and immediate availability, and that the support is priceless since the country cannot let more lives be lost.

"We shouldn't fear support because no country fights ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

## Al Jazeera Says Tunisian Police Raided Its Office, Expelled Journalists & Seized Equipment Amid Ongoing Political Crisis

Al Jazeera said police broke into its office in Tunisia after President Kais Saied suspended parliament activities and sacked the country's prime minister. Saied's move was labeled a coup by opponents.

The Qatari state-funded channel said at least 20 armed plainclothes police officers entered its Tunis office on Monday and instructed all journalists to leave.

Al Jazeera quoted its Tunisian bureau as saying that police did not have a warrant, but claimed they were act-

ing under orders from the country's judiciary. The journalists had their phones and other equipment seized and were not allowed back into the building to get their personal belongings, the channel reported.

"We did not receive any prior notice of the eviction of our office by the security forces," Lotfi Hajji, Al Jazeera's bureau chief in Tunisia, said.

Reporters Without Borders condemned the raid, calling on authorities to respect the ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

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## Senators Race to Seal Infrastructure Deal as Pressure Mounts

WASHINGTON - Senators are racing to seal a bipartisan infrastructure deal as soon as Monday, as pressure is mounting on all sides to show progress on President Joe Biden's top priority.

Heading into a make-or-break week, key senators and staff spent the weekend trying to reach a final agreement. One major roadblock is how much money should go to public transit. But spending on highways, water projects, broadband and others areas remains unresolved, as is whether to take unspent COVID-19 relief funds to help pay for the infrastructure. Late

Sunday, the Democrats and the White House sent a "global" offer to Republicans on remaining issues, according to a Democratic aide close to the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

The lead Republican negotiator, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, said the two sides were "about 90% of the way there" on an agreement.

A top Democrat, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, said he was hopeful a final bill would be ready Monday afternoon — though others were not so sure.

The week ahead is crucial. Senate ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## French Parliament Approves Bill Forcing Vaccination for Medical Workers & Greater Health Pass Use Amid Growing Protests

The French parliament has approved a bill to further tighten requirements for mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations and health passes in response to the Delta variant. The new constraints come amid mounting protests in France.

The new restrictions in Monday morning's bill mean that French health workers will be obligated to receive the vaccine. The need for health passes will also be imposed across more areas of society, leaving fewer social activities and transport options available for those who are opposed to the jab.

Monday's bill means that the health pass — a vaccine passport or a negative test — will be required in bars and restaurants, on long-distance train journeys, and on flights.

Prior to the measures approved on Monday, President Emma-



nuel Macron had already applied the health pass to museums, cinemas and swimming pools, following the spread of the Delta variant in early July.

The bill still needs final approval

by France's Constitutional Court — a body to whom many protesters are appealing for the protection of their 'droits de l'homme', or human rights.

On ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Chinese Medical Team Provides Support to Needy Children in South Sudan



JUBA- Members of the eighth batch of the Chinese medical team on Sunday donated essential support including medicines and food to needy children in South Sudan.

Hellen Murshal Boro, executive director of Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC) lauded the Chinese medical team for their support toward needy children being sheltered at CCC orphan-

age.

"They are children coming from different backgrounds. Some of them have no parents, while others are whose mothers have died of HIV/AIDs and they are also infected and nobody is taking care of them," she said.

Boro noted that each child comes with different conditions, adding that the most important thing is that the team provides protection and also clean drinking water, food, and access to health care services.

She thanked the Chinese medical team for extending free weekly medical services to these needy children.

"They come on Saturday and check all the children," said Boro. Since ...*(More on P4)...(23)*



**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**



Kabul	Sunny	Bamiyan	Sunny	Herat	Sunny	Mazar	Sunny	Kandahar	Sunny	Ghazni	Sunny	Jalalabad	Partly cloudy
38°C	22°C	24°C	12°C	37°C	23°C	41°C	28°C	45°C	27°C	36°C	20°C	41°C	28°C



## Afghanistan's Army Chief Calls Off India Visit Due to 'Increased Offensive by Taliban'

The withdrawal of US-led forces from Afghanistan has fuelled record levels of violence, as fighting rages on between the Afghan government forces and Taliban. A new report by the United Nations (UN) says that civilian casualties in the first six months have increased by 47 percent over last year.

Afghanistan's Army Chief General Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai has called off a scheduled trip to India due to the "increased offensive by the Taliban" in the country, an Afghan Embassy spokesperson told Sputnik on Monday.

The cancellation comes amid increasing territorial gains by the

Taliban in the war-ravaged nation, against the backdrop of US-led forces withdrawing troops ahead of the 31 August deadline. The insurgent group now claims to control around 85 percent of Afghanistan's territory and 90 percent of its borders, including those with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran.

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have been soliciting arms and air power support from other countries in a bid to counter the Taliban offensive across the nation.

India, Afghanistan's largest regional donor, has backed the government of President Ashraf Ghani, and called for "preserv-



ing the gains" of the last 20 years.

General Ahmadzai was scheduled to reiterate calls for increased military support from New Delhi during his now cancelled visit, as reported by India Today last week.

India has to date supplied four Russian-made Mi-24 attack ...

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## Austrian PM Kurz Finds Turkey 'More Suitable' for Afghans as Migration Destination

Austrian Prime Minister Sebastian Kurz spoke of the recent wave of migration from Afghanistan, saying Turkey is the "more suitable place" for Afghans to flee to, rather than Germany, Austria or Sweden.

"We cannot solve Afghanistan's problems by taking in large numbers of people into Germany and Austria, as in 2015. We have to improve the situation on the ground. If people have to flee, then I consider neighboring countries, Turkey or safe parts of Afghanistan, to be definitely the more suitable place than Germany, Austria or Sweden," Kurz told German newspaper Bild in an interview on July 25.

"I don't want to import this sick ideology into Europe," Kurz said.

"Thank goodness there are many who integrate well, but we have several people in Europe who bring exactly these ideas to Europe. We have imported a great deal of anti-Semitism into Europe in recent years through these migratory flows. Among those people who have come to us, there are those who are clearly homophobic and who do not necessarily uphold women's rights," Kurz further said.

Kurz's comments came as the European Union is weighing a new package of financial aid to Afghanistan and its neighbors



to help limit the flow of refugees from the country.

Two EU officials told Reuters last week that the plan, which is at a preparatory phase, would involve more financial help to Afghanistan, Pakistan and countries in the region.

The objective would be to help refugees closer to home and avoid a ...

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## People Lose Hope for The Peace Process



KABUL - The residents of different provinces talking to Pajhwok Afghan News have expressed grave concern over the ongoing situation in the country and asked the conflicting parties to reconcile in order to protect the country from new crisis and catastrophe.

They say Afghanistan is burning in the flames of the conflict since past 40 years under different themes between different players. Majority of foreign forces specially US forces have left Afghanistan based on the Doha Agreement and this process will be completed by September this year but fighting is underway in full swing between Afghan government and the Taliban.

Besides intense fighting, peace talks have been also ongoing from the past 10 months simultaneously but the talks proved ineffective in ...

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## ANDSF Kill Over 1,500 Militants During Previous Week: General Shinwarai



KABUL - Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces spokesperson General Ajlam Shinwarai said that the forces have conducted 154 military operations in which 1,528 insurgents were killed and over 800 more wounded.

During the operations conducted in 20 provinces, 16 militants were taken hostages, Shinwarai added.

The operations include land operations, airstrikes, and artillery shells. The spokesperson of ANDSF said that the forces have been out of defensive stance and are currently in offensive one during the latter stance some attacks have also been repelled.

On casualty of civilians he said, a large number of ANDSF operations were suspended in order

to prevent civilian casualties in the country.

General Ajlam Shinwarai accused the Taliban of killing 14 civilians and wounding nearly thirty more during the previous week.

The claim over civilian casualty comes after UNAMA in its latest report said that the past two months were the deadliest in terms ...

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## Ex-CIA Agent Says US Wasted Trillions on Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Achieved Nothing

TEHRAN - The US has squandered trillions of dollars on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq while failing to achieve any objectives, former US counter-terrorism specialist and CIA Military Intelligence Officer Philip Giraldo wrote in an op-ed for Strategic Culture Foundation.

In an article, Giraldo made the remarks as US soldiers leave Afghanistan after an almost twenty-year war and pressure mounts on the Joe Biden administration to withdraw all troops from Iraq, Sputnik reported.

"Not only did the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq make bad situations worse, but the fact that no one in Washington was able to define "victory" and think in terms of an exit strategy has meant that the wars and instability are still with us", Giraldo wrote.

"In their wake has been hundreds of thousands of deaths and trillions of dollars spent to accomplish absolutely nothing," he added.

He also lamented the development of a situation where, in his opinion, Iraq now has a stronger connection to "Iran than it does to Washington".

"The Iraqi Parliament has, in fact, asked US forces to leave the country, a request that has been ignored both by Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Trump actually threatened to freeze Iraqi bank assets to pressure the Iraqis into accepting the continued US occupation," he added. The former CIA agent also ...



ing," he added. He also lamented the development of a situation where, in his opinion, Iraq now has a stronger connection to "Iran than it does to Washington".

"The Iraqi Parliament has, in fact, asked US forces to leave the country, a request that has been ignored both by Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Trump actually threatened to freeze Iraqi bank assets to pressure the Iraqis into accepting the continued US occupation," he added. The former CIA agent also ...

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## Nangarhar Marble Stones Reach International Markets

JALALABAD - Marble stones processed by 16 factories in eastern Nangarhar province are exported to Italy, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan besides being sent to a number of provinces inside the country.

Officials of the factories processing the stone say they would also export the mineral to other Asian and European countries if they are provided with adequate electricity and security.

The stones are used in various decorative purposes in houses and other buildings. Zabihullah, a worker at one of marble stones processing factories in Jalalabad city, capital of Nangarhar, said that if the factories were provided with enough electricity and security, it would boost their business and they would recruit more workers.

He said that the stones extracted from the province's mines currently reached a number of European and Asian countries but the export was limited due to low production.



Sayed Ahmad, head of another factory, said that the government should provide fundamental needs of factories in the province.

"If the current problems of investors are resolved, they would invest more and would create jobs and help the country in terms of productions", he said.

Nangarhar Commerce and Industry Department officials say that the 16 factories have created jobs for 500 people directly or indirectly.

Mohammad Hassan Mohsin, head of Nangarhar Commerce and Industry Department, said ...

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## 6m Electronic ID Cards Distributed Countrywide: NSIA

KABUL - The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) on Sunday said six million electronic ID cards have so far been distributed countrywide and eight million others have been requested.

A statement from the Presidential Palace received by Pajhwok Afghan News said that President Ashraf Ghani was presented a report by NSIA on its technical teams, system development and e-ID cards distribution in the country.

The statement said NSIA head Javid Rasouli who presented the report during a meeting, said that the authority's capacity



had improved as well as work quality as per international standards.

He also shared problems regarding system implementation, new changes in leadership of some organizations and their priorities, services and other areas with the president, the statement added.

Rasouli said that NSIA had so far distributed six million electronic ID cards

and eight million more e-ID cards had been requested.

The president thanked NSIA for capacity building, system development and distribution of six million e-ID cards and stressed on acceleration of the process.

He said that Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) had been digitalized and ministries ...

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## Schools Cannot Charge Fees for Quarantine Period: MoE

KABUL - Some private schools are intent upon collecting from students fees for June and July when they did not provide services during the quarantine period.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education (MoE) says these schools should not charge fees for the two months. Following a surge in coronavirus infections in the country, schools in Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Parwan, Wardak, Panjsher, Balkh, Laghman, Badakhshan, Kapisa, Kunduz, Nimroz and provinces have been closed since May 18.

MoE announced on July the mid-school exams would be held on July 28 in tropical provinces, taking into account ...



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