

“Never, for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience or convictions.”

Dag Hammarskjöld

## Urgent Consultations Underway About Conflict Prevention: Ghani



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday said that he was in high level consultations for prevention of further violence in the country, but his priority was re-mobilization of Afghan security forces.

He made the statements in a televised address about the ongoing situation of the country today.

“As your President, my focus is on preventing further instability, violence, and displacement

of my people, so further killings, destruction of public facilities and achievements of the last two decades would be stopped in the imposed war no people” he said.

He said that his consultations with political leaders, various classes of people, representatives of international allies were underway and their results would be shared soon with the people.

Ghani said that mobilization of Afghan security and defense forces

was also his priority and serious measures were underway on the regard.

Afghanistan is under serious threat of instability due to the imposed war, but efforts are on for assisting people who are displaced due to the conflict, he said.

This comes as Taliban captured 18 provinces in less than two weeks and conflicts in Maidan Wardak and Paktia provinces are currently underway. (Pajhwok)

## Marine Vanguard Lands in Kabul as US Speeds Up Evacuations



WASHINGTON - The first forces of a Marine battalion arrived in Kabul at week's end to stand guard as the U.S. speeds up evacuation flights for some American diplomats and thousands of Afghans, spurred by a lightning Taliban offensive that increasingly is isolating Afghanistan's capital.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said “elements” of a battalion were now in Kabul, the vanguard of three Marine and Army battalions that the U.S. was sending to the city by the end of the weekend to help more Americans and their Afghan colleagues get out quickly.

The Taliban, emboldened by the imminent end of the U.S. combat mission in the country, took four more provincial capitals Friday, heightening fears they would move soon on the capital, which is home to millions of Afghans. “Clearly from their actions, it appears as if ...

## Taliban Approach Capital's Outskirts, Attack Northern City



KABUL, Afghanistan – The Taliban seized two more provinces on Saturday and approached the outskirts of Afghanistan's capital while also launching a multi-pronged assault on a major northern city defended by former warlords, Afghan officials said.

The insurgents have captured much of northern, western and southern Afghanistan in a breakneck offensive less than three weeks before the United States is set to withdraw its last troops, raising fears of a full militant takeover or another Afghan civil war.

The Taliban captured all of Logar province, just south of the capital, Kabul, and detained local officials, said Hoda Ahmadi, a lawmaker from the province. She said the Taliban have reached the Char Asyab district, just 11 kilometers (7 miles) south of Kabul.

The insurgents also captured the capital of Paktika, bordering Pakistan, according to Khalid Asad, a lawmaker from the province. He said fighting broke out in Sharna early Saturday but ended after local elders intervened to negotiate a pullout. He said the ...

## US Lawmaker Seeks Immediate Air Support to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON -

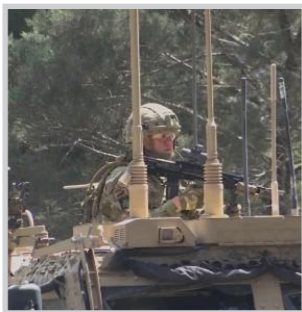
US Congressman Mike Waltz in a letter to President Joe Biden on Friday urged the Administration to take immediate steps to provide assistance to the Afghan people in their fight against the Taliban and make significant changes to their regional strategy.

He requested Biden to provide military resources to assist the Afghan National Security Forces including air support to blunt the Taliban offensive, immediately cut off aid to Pakistan and consider sanctions, and ask for Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad's resignation “due to his catastrophic diplomatic strategy.”

“The Afghan Government and its people desperately need our help and I urge you to reverse course and provide military resources to assist the Afghan National Security Forces,” he wrote. First, President Biden can crush the Taliban offensive by committing American air power to support the Afghan Army, Waltz wrote. The Taliban are in the open and exposed as they maneuver to surround Afghan cities. Just as we did in 2001, small groups of special forces partnered with the Air Force will make a dramatic impact and reverse the Taliban's psychological narrative that victory is inevitable.

Second, he wrote, Biden should send a very clear message to the Taliban's backers in Pakistan that enough is enough. The Pakistani military is integral in the Taliban's resurgence. At best, the Pakistanis are turning their backs and complicit in what's happening. At worst, they're actively aiding and equipping the Taliban. The US must suspend all aid and consider sanctions on key military and intelligence officials.

“Finally, Biden must shelve our feckless efforts to negotiate with brutal ...



## Canada Vows to Resettle 20,000 Afghans, Including Embassy Staff & Aid Workers, Amid Fears of Taliban Reprisals



OTTAWA - The Canadian government has pledged to evacuate and resettle 20,000 Afghans, including women, aid workers and diplomatic staff, citing concerns about Taliban reprisals as the militant group overruns cit-

ies across Afghanistan.

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino announced the move on Friday, telling reporters that Ottawa would do its best to bring thousands of vulnerable Afghans to safety in Canada, though he gave no timetable for how long that could take.

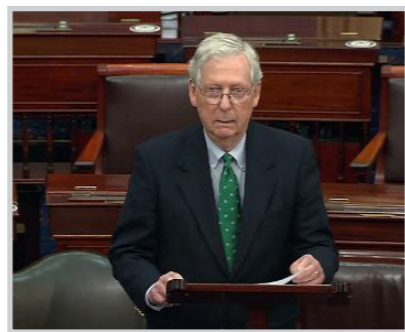
“As the Taliban continues to take over more of Afghanistan, many more Afghans' lives are under increasing threat,” he said, later sharing a photo of a plane carrying refugees that landed in Canada.

Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan also noted that Canadian special

forces would help to relocate Afghans, saying the “challenges on the ground are quite immense,” but offered few other details. His comments followed a series of reports on Thursday night that the government would send a small contingent of special operators to the Canadian Embassy to assist with the evacuation of staff, though the officials cited did not provide exact numbers for the deployment.

Canada is far from the only Western state to remove personnel from the war-torn country, ...

## Mitch McConnell Calls for US Airstrikes to Stop Taliban Advance



WASHINGTON - US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Friday said the United States should start conducting airstrikes against the Taliban and provide support to Afghan forces to stop the group from taking over the Af-

ghan capital amid the withdrawal of American troops from the country.

“It is not too late to prevent the Taliban from overrunning Kabul. The Administration should move quickly to hammer Taliban advances with air strikes, provide critical support to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) defending the capital, and prevent the seemingly imminent fall of the city,” McConnell said in a statement.

“If they fail to do so, the security threat to the United States will assuredly grow and the humanitarian cost to innocent Afghans will be catastrophic,” he warned.

McConnell added that ...

## EU Border Agency Trials High Tech Controls as Afghan Fighting Spreads



The EU's border agency is trialing new high-tech surveillance equipment to detect migrant boats, just as rapid gains by Taliban fighters in Afghanistan have raised the pros-

pect of a surge in people fleeing to Europe. A balloon system equipped with cameras is being tested at Alexandroupolis airport near the Greek-Turkish land border in northeastern Greece, and on the island of Limnos, with the aim of giving border officials a clearer view of approaching boats. Planned before recent Taliban advances in Afghanistan, it is part of a wider effort that includes analysis of emerging pressures from the region.

“We are observing and following the developments specifically in Afghanistan ...

## SME LOAN

Azizi Bank provides you readily Small and Medium Project Loan with easy processing. All Afghan traders who have three active projects are eligible for the loan with repayment of instalments in one upto two years.

# Afghanistan: At-Risk Civilians Need Evacuation, Protection

KABUL - Afghans at heightened risk of persecution from advancing Taliban forces are in urgent need of evacuation and international protection abroad, Human Rights Watch said today. Foreign governments should prioritize providing visas and helping ensure safe passage for civilians whom the Taliban may target for abuse because of their past work or status, along with their immediate family members. Civilians feared to be at particular risk include those who have worked to promote human rights, democracy, and education; academics, writers, journalists, and other media workers; and people who have done work for foreign countries; among other at-risk categories. Members of ethnic minorities and Shia Muslims, in particular Hazaras, are also at greater risk. "The Taliban have a long record of abusing or killing civilians they deem 'enemies,'" said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director

at Human Rights Watch. "Whether from inside or outside of Afghanistan, governments and UN offices should provide protection and assistance to at-risk Afghans and make processing travel documents and transportation a priority." Governments should immediately suspend all deportations and forced returns to Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch said. All countries should publicly recognize that Afghans fleeing Afghanistan should be given meaningful opportunities to seek asylum. The United Nations and UN member states should increase humanitarian assistance to neighboring countries to which Afghans are fleeing and support those countries admitting them. Governments should also increase support for emergency evacuation, relocation, and resettlement operations for Afghans, and urgently meet to adopt coordinated protocols for resettlement to third countries for people particularly at risk.



Governments should also increase support for nongovernmental groups inside and outside of Afghanistan that promote human rights, women's rights, children's rights, education, health care, and other vital needs. Governments should ensure the participation of Afghan civil society groups in discussions of assistance

and resettlement. The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva should urgently pass a resolution creating a special body to collect and preserve evidence of abuses by all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan and prepare files to facilitate fair and independent criminal proceedings, ...

# Closing in on Kabul, Taliban Seize Logar



KABUL - Zeroing in on Kabul, Taliban fighters have seized central Logar province and detained a number of officials, a lawmaker confirmed on Saturday. Hoda Ahmadi told the Associated Press the insurgents had reached the Char Asyab district, 11 kilometers south of Kabul. Following the overnight fall of the provincial capital Pul-i-Alam, the insurgents overran many parts of the province.

On Friday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted the rebels had overrun the police headquarters and the main prison in Pul-i-Alam. Mujahid claimed several Afghan National Army soldiers had surrendered. He said the Taliban also seized weapons, including two tanks. He also released video clips of Taliban advances in Logar, President Ashraf Ghani's home. (Pajhwok)

# Taliban Takeover Not in US Interest: Graham

KABUL - An influential US senator has commended the Americans who served in Afghanistan and their family members. "You provided protection to our nation for 20 years against another 9/11," Lindsey Graham tweeted on Friday. The lawmaker wrote: "I know it is difficult to see Afghanistan deteriorate so quickly, but you and your comrades in arms - some who made the ...



# More Forces to be Sent to Chahar Asiab: Mirzakwal

KABUL - Acting Interior Minister Gen. Abdul Sattar Mirzakwal has visited check-posts and security personnel in the Chahar Asiab district of Kabul. In a statement, the Ministry of Interior said Mirzakwal met security personnel to assess the situation and better understand the problems facing the district. The acting minister, who issued necessary instructions...



# Friendship Gate Reopens after Week-Long Closure

PESHAWAR - The Durand Line crossing at Chaman, closed by the Taliban last week, has been reopened, says a Pakistan official. The Friendship Gate was reopened on Friday as a result of successful negotiation between Taliban and Pakistani officials. In fact, the decision had been taken three days back, but the cross could not be reopened due to a Taliban demand that Pakistan did not accept. The Taliban, Dawn reported, demanded the Afghans be allowed to enter Chaman from Wesh without visas and other documents. Subsequently, the newspaper said, the two sides met again on Friday and the Durand Line was reopened.



As a result, Afghan transit trade and import and export of goods resumed after more than a week. "After negotiations with the Taliban, the crossing has been reopened," a senior Chaman administration official said. Transit trade trucks and other vehicles were allowed to cross into Wesh and Chaman. Many Afghans were also allowed to ...

# Islamabad Urges Kabul to Expedite Peace Process

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has urged Afghan leaders to try to quickly achieve a negotiated settlement with the Taliban to stop the further escalation in violence. At a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said the Taliban's swift territorial gains underlined the need for expediting the peace process. The NSA said: "Trust me, if they sit down, they will be able to come out with some sort of settlement and we will respect whatever Afghans decide." He warned history would judge them poorly if they did put all efforts behind a political settlement in Afghanistan, where



more than a dozen provincial capitals fell to the Taliban in the past two months. Pakistan could only facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan, but could not be a guarantor, the official explained. "Everybody needs to respect what Afghans decide politically." (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

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

Aug 15, 2021 - Get the rest you need, Aries. Prevent sickness and maintain full control of your mind and body by making sure you get the proper amount of sleep. Your actions today should be methodical. Don't try to experiment with something you know nothing about. Make sure you understand the situation completely before you jump in with both feet.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - Don't poke your nose into other people's business today, Taurus. Give others their space and let them work things out for themselves. Don't feel like you have to gain the attention of everyone. Do what you need to do and your rewards will come in due time. Your actions might be thrown off course by the unexpected. Be on the lookout for something wild and bizarre that could be coming your way.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Aug 15, 2021 - Ask for what you need, Gemini, and you will get it. Don't wait around for the rewards to come to you. This is one of those days in which actions speak louder than words. Don't expect others to read your mind. If you want something, go after it. There may be an element of the unexpected working its way into your day so be on guard.



### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Aug 15, 2021 - Watch the sunrise today, Cancer. Open your eyes to the beauty around you and let it inspire you to take action. Someone may be trying to throw you a curve ball, so be ready. You have a generous heart that you should share freely. Your helpful nature will draw others to you and help you skate effortlessly through your day. Teach someone a lesson that you know they need to learn.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - Get in touch with a friend you haven't heard from in a while, Leo. Someone is waiting to hear from you. Surprise him or her with an unexpected expression of love. Rely on your inner map and don't let others throw you off course. Don't waste time. Keep an eye on your goals at all times. Other people play key parts in making this day go smoothly, but don't let them manipulate you.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - Mind your manners, Virgo, and open doors that you've never opened before. Maintain your principles and integrity as you venture forth into worlds unknown. Don't write people off without giving them a fair chance. Don't judge others. Give them an equal amount of respect. It may be hard to maintain a solid footing today, but you should try.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - You may go in many different directions today, Libra, so try to stay focused. Spend some time by water, even if it's just your bathtub, and reconnect with your true self. The more you integrate your inner nature with your outer demeanor, the more you will attract the people and situations that can help you in your journey.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - Your actions may take a sudden turn today, Scorpio, so beware. This may seem like an annoying bend in the road at first, but if you keep walking, you'll see that this course of action is exactly the one you need to take. This isn't a day to sit back and watch. Get your act together and do something before you're the one who gets acted upon.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - You're able to get quite a bit accomplished today, Sagittarius, as long as you're the one taking action. Don't let other people be in charge. Your power may come in energetic, erratic bursts, so use this to your advantage. Maintain a level head and you will be able to cut through your day's work like a warm knife through butter. Whatever you do, don't give up.



### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Aug 15, 2021 - Maintain your integrity, Capricorn. Other people may suspect your motives, so make sure you give them no reason to doubt you. Be confident in your actions and follow through with your promises. There's a great deal of power under your belt, but it's erratic. Take breaks during the day to collect your energy and refocus.



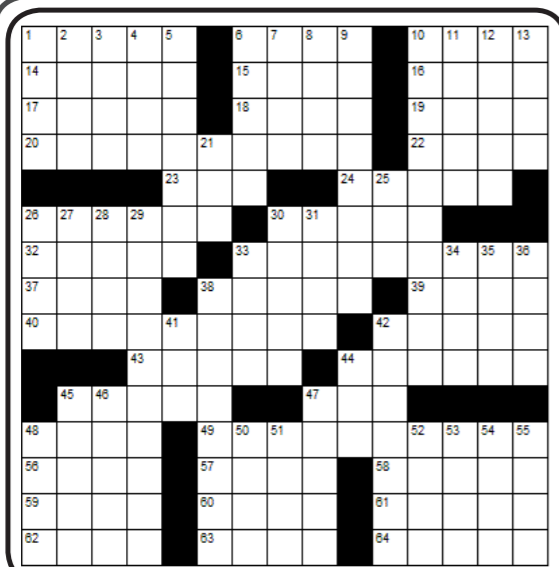
### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Aug 15, 2021 - Slow and steady actions are likely to win the race today, Aquarius. Unexpected situations may crop up to throw you off course, but don't let them. Stay on your path and try not to give in to the wild, erratic energy around you. Stick to traditional methods and beware of peddlers trying to sell you wooden nickels. You're smarter than that.



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

Aug 15, 2021 - If you don't agree with what the group is doing today, Pisces, don't feel like you have to join in. Earn their respect in your own way, not by forcing yourself into a mold you don't fit into. Maintain your integrity and act with confidence. If you're confident about your actions, others will put their confidence in you. Don't compromise your beliefs.



### Across

- Common beet, 6. Amazes, 10. To tax or access, 14. Hawaiian veranda, 15. Blood-sucking insects, 16. Shade of blue, 17. Nautical for stop, 18. Gumbo, 19. Regrets, 20. Larkspur, 22. Offers, 23. Before, poetically, 24. Range, 26. Spartan, 30. Moon of Saturn, 32. Lacking wit or imagination, 33. Custodian, 37. Module, 38. Hindu mendicant monk, 39. Story, 40. Consecrates, 42. Trades, 43. Burrowing mammals, 44. Not the youngest, 45. Swings, 47. Genus of macaws, 48. Immediately, 49. Become bubbly, 56. High fidelity, 57. Threesome, 58. Convulsion, 59. Margarine, 60. Ripped, 61. They make wool, 62. Small slender gull, 63. Is indebted to, 64. Informal greeting

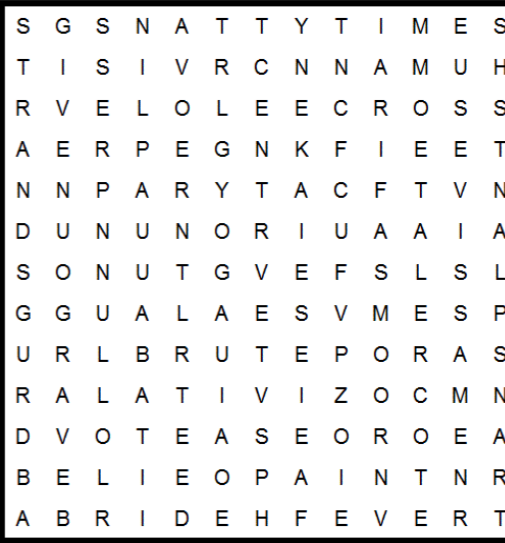
### Down

- Attired, 2. Possess, 3. Rectal, 4. Coarse file, 5. Indecisive, 6. Sole, 7. A collaborative website, 8. Beige, 9. Tailor, 10. Fizzy, 11. Provide, 12. Soft leather, 13. Back talk, 21. Anger, 25. Feline, 26. Potato, 27. Sea eagle, 28. Cancel, 29. Appraisal, 30. Seizes, 31. Colored part of an eye, 33. Provisions, 34. Cabbagelike vegetable, 35. L L L L, 36. A musical pause, 38. High-pitched male voice, 41. Demure, 42. Submissive, 44. Mistake, 45. Attendance counter, 46. Thin disk of unleavened bread, 47. Eras, 48. Fired a weapon, 50. A splitting tool, 51. Blaze, 52. Reflected sound, 53. Goulash, 54. Prompted, 55. Catch a glimpse of

### Yesterday's Solution



- affect annual belie bride brute clean cross doubt drugs fate fever given grave human massive natty nausea null paint press range recovery relate reputation rooms rope slack spoon strand support tease times total



## The Expectation of People from the Government and Afghan Taliban Leaders

Following the recent advances of the Taliban in the countryside, they have also continued advances towards the center of provinces. They have taken the control of several provinces in the northern and western parts of the country. In the latest case, the city of Sar-e Pul has also fallen like other provincial capitals that fully or partially fell under the control of the Taliban. These cities are Zaranj, the capital of western Nimroz province; the city of Shibirghan, the capital of northern Jawzjan province; the city of Kunduz, the capital of northern strategic Kunduz province; and Taleqan, the capital of another northern province in the country. In addition, several pro-government local militia commanders surrendered to the Taliban without a fight while others are daily hunted by assassination targets in Kabul and other provinces. These unilateral advances show the firm will of the Taliban for victory, but the firm will of the government for retreating and just ravings.

The first expectation of people from the government is to bravely resist or leave. If the government cannot defend the people, it must not deepen the pains of the people. The people expect the government to provide them with clear responses that why some of the bases, districts, and provinces are left to the Taliban without any serious resistance. Before the government spokesmen justified the falls of districts as a tactical retreat so as to prevent the civilian casualties in the war field, but how do they justify the falls of provinces? A few days ago, the president informed of a clear plan for re-capturing of the districts, but in practice, the center of provinces has successively collapsed. Therefore, the people are extremely tired of prodoxical promises, justifications, and ravings. In addition, the morale of the security forces has so lowered as in some cases the areas are surrendered to the Taliban without any resistance. If the government and international community do not want to support the security forces, they should practically take action, and stop raving and promising. The next expectation of people from the government is to equally and impartially use from the national facilities, power oneness against Taliban. Otherwise, the show of fall and silence will have bad consequences for the government, and the people. In a situation where the war has reached the homes of the people, imposing countless fiscal and human losses with displacing thousands of people, there is a rapid need for national convergence in the fight against the Taliban, but the Afghan government became more indifferent and centralized in a small circle marginalizing other groups in the country. Thus, the people's concerns about the fall of the districts and provinces to the Taliban are as serious as the significant silence of senior government officials showing that Afghanistan seems to have bad days ahead.

As a whole, if the government shows practical commitment to republic values and rule of law, the people are still committed to the protection of the republic system, but the weaknesses of the government have really tired everyone. According to experts, the weaknesses of the government are rooted in different issues such as the strategic leadership of the peace and war, lack of meritocratic standards in government institutions, the defensive position of security forces, lack of modern weapons and warring equipment, administrative corruption, lack of good coordination amongst the leadership of security forces, and infiltration of foreign intelligence in the government bodies are of the other chronic factors behind the rapid advances of the Taliban. If the government does not show the practical will to republic values, and if the government does not review its war plan and strategy, the security forces will entirely lose their morale and confidence, and then the Taliban will practically announce the victory of the emirate over the republic in the country.

It must be re-emphasized that the weaknesses of the government and the rapid advances of the Taliban with doubtful silence of the government have created serious skepticism and questions throughout the country. If the government wants to hand it over to the Taliban, why does it victimize thousands of people? If the government and international community do not wish to fight against the Taliban, why do they deepen the pain and afflictions of Afghan people? In some cases, such as fighting against corruption, rule of law, and seriousness against criminals, some people might, even, prefer the Taliban. Therefore, the Taliban is also expected to reform their deeds and behavior under the framework of national and international law.

The Taliban are blamed for having no capacity and no motives to serve people and so they need to prove their meritocratic approach and capacity to provide public and administrative services. The Taliban are blamed for the destruction of the infrastructures and so they should control their commanders and fighters, especially their foreign fighters not destroy the public and private properties. Nearly a month ago, the government officials announced that the Taliban had imposed millions of losses on the country by the destruction of public facilities such as public roads, schools, clinics, and bridges. If the Taliban are really Afghan and want to govern on the people, they should overtly punish those who commit such crimes in the area under their control. And finally, the Taliban is also blamed for not being incompatible with the requirement of times and modern values. Therefore, they are expected to adjust themselves to modern values such as equity, equality, justice, freedom, women's right, freedom of speech, and so on. Instead of showing the power of their weapons, the Taliban show the power of their logic, program, and rationality. They should know that the contemporary generation and multi-ethnic society of Afghanistan are entirely in paradox to the monopolistic and obsolete version of the Emirate system and so the people expect the Taliban to change their minds and system.



## Message of Historical Revolution

By: Hujjatullah Zia

The Holy Month of Muharram is celebrated annually among Muslims to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain (A.S) and his companions whose blood was spilt in the scorching desert of Karbala, a city in Iraq. Denying to pledge allegiance to the dictatorial regime of his time, he sought to revive moral values and religious tenets at the cost of his life. Husain (A.S), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), showed no sense of fear and played his constructive role heroically to reform the society.

The philosophy behind his historic revolution, based on his statement, was to revive religious principles, moral standard, and human values. Husain (A.S) refused to be coerced into pledging loyalty to Yazid's regime and aimed to free the society from violence, tyranny, oppression, moral turpitude, etc. Being recommended to yield to the dictatorial regime of his time, Husain (A.S) replied, "I will never surrender to them like a humiliated person and never pledge allegiance to them like slaves." He preferred martyrdom to a wicked life and deemed it a moral responsibility to release those who were subdued to coercion and brutality.

His main objective was to stop the spirit of religion from moribund and teach a lesson of humanity to the world through his practices. He urged people to listen to the call of their conscience and beckoned them to join him in his revolution against despotism. He voiced his concerns over the flagrant violation of religious tenets and moral standards. To put it succinctly, he cherished humanity, spiritual purpose, and divine message.

To view the revolution of Karbala from the perspective of the current era, Husain (A.S) deemed it his right whether or not to pledge loyalty to a regime. After all, his spiritual status as "Imam" would not allow him to yield to a cruel system.

However, the philosophy of the revolution in Karbala was not either realized truly or was turned a blind eye. For instance, the tragic aspect of this revolution is highly prominent across Islamic societies that has outshined other angles. An overwhelming number of people shed tears without regarding the objective of Husain (A.S) or following his footsteps - i.e., valuing divine messages, humanity, and moral standards. That is to say, scores of people who live under cruelty or breathe no words for protecting their rights and freedoms mourn for an individual that lived a free life and safeguarded his soul against evils. It is the tragedy of our time to see that people focus on the wounds inflicted on his body rather than his soul that spread

the message of freedom and humanity. Although his blood was spilt mercilessly, each drop of his blood was a stain on the face of Yazid's regime and stigmatized it forever. It is an unmistakable fact that the death of a freedom-fighter, religious reformer, or simply a well-intentioned individual will be tragic for a society, but this tragedy is not supposed to overshadow other aspects.

The followers of Imam Husain (A.S) ought to practice upon religious tenets in its true way; respect the rights, freedoms, and dignity of others; uphold moral standards and humanity; show religious tolerance; and defend the right versus the wrong in their daily life. Those who show interest towards the revolution of Karbala, need to figure out its philosophy. Moreover, religious preachers will have to enlighten all aspects of this historical revolution rather than simply speaking about the tragedies and merciless killings occurred in Karbala.

Religious extremism is one of the issues that preachers need to point out its ugliness more than ever before. Husain (A.S) revolted against cruelty and coercion and intended to protect the true spirit of religion against the false interpretations or practices. Extremism has stemmed from radical interpretation of religious tenets exercised by the ideologues who regard religion from bird's eye view. Indeed, religious extremism, which has changed into a global threat, is against the objectives of Karbala's revolution and in direct conflict with religious mainstream. Husain (A.S) did not violate the rights or freedoms of others but resisted cruelty and violation of his rights. Since religious extremists know no moral or religious boundaries, they even target mourning proceedings and mosques. Hence, their anti-religious practices are against humans and humanity.

To sum up, Islamic societies had better pay heed to the holy objectives of this revolution more than its tragic aspect. The heroic movement of Husain (A.S) and his selfless act for reviving religious values and ethical code are a unique lesson for all human societies that the history has ever recorded. But reducing the sacred goal of this revolution to mourning ceremonies will be a blow to Islamic societies. His valuable slogan "death with humanity is better than a life of humiliation" reveals his virtue and lofty soul. It, indeed, was the revolution of virtue versus vice.

Hujjatullah Zia is the permanent writer of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan and freelance writer based in Kabul. He can be reached at zia\_hujjat@yahoo.com

## The Tusk Effect

By: Sławomir Sierakowski

In July, Donald Tusk, the former European Council president who previously served as Poland's prime minister from 2007 to 2014, returned to Polish politics. Many voters remember him as the politician who raised the country's retirement age - a policy that was reversed in 2017 by the Law and Justice Party (PiS). In fact, the PiS has blamed Tusk for pretty much everything that is wrong in Poland.



Other paranoid accusations leveled against Tusk include that he collaborated with Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2010 to arrange the plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczyński, the identical twin brother of PiS leader Jarosław Kaczyński, and that he is, in fact, a German backed by Chancellor Angela Merkel.

But Tusk is a consummate pragmatist. He admits that he made some serious mistakes during his tenure as prime minister. He now believes that people should be able to choose whether they want to retire earlier or get a larger pension for retiring later. He is less economically liberal than he was before, conceding that the state should be more active in redistribution. Like the rest of the Polish political class, he acknowledges that the PiS government's many generous social programs are popular. There will be no returning to the neoliberalism that dominated Poland after 1989, in the era of then-Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz's "shock therapy."

Tusk's return has had an electrifying effect. His party, Civic Platform, immediately regained the lead among the opposition, with its support rising from 16.9 to 27.3 in the space of a month. Moreover, an analysis of the polls shows that he has won over as many as one million new voters for the opposition. As one commentator put it, Tusk has rolled in like a tank to challenge the infantrymen of PiS and the other opposition parties.

The atmosphere within Civic Platform has also changed. The party's previously comatose politicians have woken up. Tusk is traveling the country and meeting activists, local government officials, and ordinary people. At press conferences, he answers even hostile questions, including from PiS-aligned media outlets. Not allowing himself to be provoked, he both admits to past mistakes and offers sharp ripostes - a style that contrasts starkly with Kaczyński, who never takes questions at press conferences.

Tusk's strategy is to serve as a kind of father of the opposition. He not only avoids disputes, but also praises other opposition leaders effusively. He is not the kind of politician who wants to share power; but, for now, he is focused on defeating PiS. That goal comes with significant career risks. Although Kaczyński has a significant resource advantage (presiding over the state budget, public media, state-owned companies, and European funds), losing to him nonetheless would be a grave embarrassment for Tusk.

Tusk's return has also intensified Kaczyński's war on Poland's independent media. To limit the opposition's electoral prospects, PiS has tried to pull the plug on the country's largest private television station, TVN, and its news channel, TVN24. Because the station is owned by the US company Discovery (which is in the process of merging with another American firm, WarnerMedia, the parent

company to CNN), PiS has introduced a law that would bar entities from outside the European Economic Area from controlling television entities operating on the basis of a license issued in Poland.

PiS pretends that it wants to protect Poland's media market from takeovers by other countries, such as Russia, China, or an Arab state. But, giving lie to this claim, the PiS-controlled National Broadcasting Council has been delaying the extension of TVN24's broadcasting license for 18 months, simply out of spite. The station now has fewer than 50 days left to secure a renewal. Poland is thus spurning the country on which it most depends to maintain its own national security. The United States has repeatedly signaled its opposition to PiS's actions, with a bipartisan group of US senators warning in a recent joint letter that: "These and other steps, which Poland - a NATO ally and close friend and partner of the United States - has recently taken, do not reflect the shared values that underpin our bilateral relationship. Any decision to implement these laws could have negative implications for defense, business, and trade relations. We urge the Polish government to pause before acting on any measure that would impact our longstanding relationship."

The message here is clear. If the law is enacted, Poland can forget about any large weapons contracts, an increased American military presence (beyond the 5,000 US soldiers who currently rotate through the country), or any state visits. Of course, that last point may well suit Kaczyński, who bet everything on Donald Trump remaining in power and now sees no reason to cooperate with US President Joe Biden's administration.

Still, there is opposition to the so-called "Lex TVN" even within the ruling camp, where a small group of deputies led by the conservative member of parliament Jarosław Gowin has pulled out of the PiS coalition government, opening the possibility of it falling soon. Kaczyński appears willing to sacrifice the Polish-American alliance in an attempt to obliterate the opposition's electoral chances. He is even more desperate now that the country's COVID-19 vaccination campaign has stalled, setting the stage for a fourth pandemic wave and possibly another lockdown. Worse, anti-vaccination sentiment is rising within the right-wing electorate, including among PiS voters. That means the government cannot risk using coercion or discrimination against the unvaccinated to head off more infections.

On top of everything else, Poland is still in a dispute with the European Union over the independence of the judiciary, leaving it vulnerable to having its EU funding cut off. Lacking a stable parliamentary majority and facing the possibility of a fourth wave, PiS thus finds itself on a collision course with not only its own electorate, but also with the EU and the US.

Still, Tusk must pierce the ceiling of 25-30% support to overtake PiS in the polls. The coming months will show us how strong he is, and how weak Kaczyński may have become.

Sławomir Sierakowski, founder of the Krytyka Polityczna movement, is Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Warsaw and Senior Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations.



# Secretive Israel-UAE Oil Deal Endangers Prized Eilat Corals

EILAT- The Red Sea reefs off the Israeli resort of Eilat host some of the greatest coral diversity on the planet. A symphony in splendid technicolor, the reefs are among the world's most resilient coral colonies against warming seas. They have also become an unlikely battleground, caught between Israeli diplomatic and business interests, and ecological groups that fear this natural treasure could be in danger.

A clandestine oil deal struck last year as part of the historic agreement establishing formal diplomatic ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is turning Eilat into a waypoint for Emirati oil headed for Western markets. Initially hailed as a move that could cement fledgling diplomatic ties and further Israel's energy ambitions, the deal is now in question after Israel's new government opened a review.



The decision has upset investors and Gulf allies. The UAE and Israel, which part of the U.S.-brokered "Abraham ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Ukraine to Launch Agency for Defense Technologies in 2022

KIEV- The full-fledged launch of Ukraine's Agency for Defense Technologies is scheduled for 2022, the country's national news agency Ukrinform reported Friday.

"We plan to take measures this year so that the Agency for Defense Technology will start fully operating next year," said Dmytro Hryshchak, Ukrainian deputy director of the Defense Industry Complex Department of the Ministry of Strategy and Industry, at an international defense investment forum.

The agency will be responsible for creating advanced and breakthrough technologies in the interests of the defense industry, which in turn will improve the existing technological capabilities of enterprises and institutions of the national defense industry, said Hryshchak.

It will also promote the creation of promising armament and military equipment models, he added. Ukraine has been working on strengthening its defense capabilities since the beginning of the ongoing conflict in the East of Ukraine, which claimed some 14,000 lives. (Xinhua)



ities since the beginning of the ongoing conflict in the East of Ukraine, which claimed some 14,000 lives. (Xinhua)

## Bolivian Wildfires Destroyed 749,000 Hectares of Land in 2021, NGO Says, as Border Region Declares 'Red Alert' over Blazes

A Bolivia-based NGO has raised alarm about the impact of destructive wildfires, saying they tore through 749,000 hectares of the country's woodland between January and July earlier this year, in a new report released on Thursday.

The report by the Friends of Nature Foundation (FAN) examined the extent of the damage caused by wildfires in the region, finding that there had been a 62% increase in the scale of the burned area during June and July compared with 2020 and a 48% rise versus the same period in 2019.

Using satellite imagery collected by the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 to track the spread of the fires, the NGO highlighted how widespread deforestation to expand farming and pastureland had aggravated the blazes in a similar situation to what's happened in Brazil.

Two regions of Bolivia - Santa Cruz and Beni - have been particularly impacted by the fires, suffering 94% of the burnt woodland. By the end of July, Santa Cruz had lost 137,000 hectares, while Beni lost 564,000 hectares due to the blazes.

On Thursday, Santa Cruz declared a "red alert" over the "progressive increase in ... (More on P4)...(18)

## At Least 40 People Killed in Floods and Mudslides in Turkey

The death toll from severe floods and mudslides in coastal Turkey has climbed to at least 40, the country's emergency and disaster agency said on Saturday.

Torrential rains that pounded the Black Sea provinces of Bartin, Kastamonu and Sinop on Wednesday caused flooding that demolished homes, severed at least five bridges, swept away cars and rendered numerous roads unpassable.

Turkish disaster agency AFAD said 34 people were killed in Kastamonu and six in Sinop. Nine people remained hospitalized in Sinop and one person was missing in Bartin province, according to the agency.

But some residents said on social media that there are hundreds more missing, a statement also made by an opposition lawmaker. About 2,250 people were evacuated across the region, some lifted from rooftops by helicopters, and many were being temporarily housed in student dormitories, authorities said.

Climate scientists unequivocally say that climate change is leading to extreme ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Killer of Five in UK Shooting Was Given Back Gun and Licence in July

Britain's police watchdog says it has launched an investigation into why a 22-year-old man who fatally shot five people in southwest England on Thursday was given back his confiscated gun and gun licence last month.

A man who shot and killed five people in England on Thursday was given back his confiscated gun and gun licence last month.

Britain's police watchdog says it has launched an investigation into why 22-year-old Jake Davison was able to go on the killing spree with a gun in the city of Plymouth.

Police have said Davison killed his mother and four other people, including a 3-year-old girl, before taking his own life.

It was Britain's first mass shooting in over a decade. Firearm crimes are rare in Britain, which has strict gun control laws and regulations.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct said on Friday it would investigate the Devon and Cornwall police department's decision-making in relation to Davison's possession of a shotgun and the license. ... (More on P4)... (24)

## US Calls on Tunisia's Saied to Appoint PM, Restore Democracy

The United States deputy national security adviser has met Tunisia's president and discussed the urgent need to appoint a prime minister-designate to form a capable government, the White House said.

The adviser, Jonathan Finer, delivered a message to President Kais Saied on Friday from US President Joe Biden, "reaffirming his personal support, and that of the Biden-Harris Administration, for the Tunisian people and urging a swift return to the path of Tunisia's parliamentary democracy", the statement said.

Finer travelled to Tunis with US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joey Hood, it said. He "discussed with President Saied the urgent need to appoint a prime minister designate who would form a capable government able to address the immediate economic and health crises facing Tunisia".

"Empowering a new government to stabilise the economy will also create space for an inclusive dialogue about proposed ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Serbian 'Hermit' Who Urged People to Get Vaccinated Says He Received Gifts from Fawning Media... And 1 EXPIRED Dose

A Serbian recluse who made international headlines after he called on people to get vaccinated has claimed he was given just one expired dose - as well as gifts from media outlets who promoted his pro-vaccine story.

Panta Petrovic, who says he lives part of the year in a cave near the Serbian town of Pirot, became an overnight sensation after media outlets applauded his pro-vaccination stance, despite his allegedly extreme "social distancing" lifestyle.

According to news agency AFP, the Serbian "hermit" was jabbed soon after Covid-19 vaccines became available in his area. "It [the virus] does not choose. It will come here to my cave too," the 70-year-old told the outlet. He said he urged everyone to do the same and didn't understand the "fuss" caused by global inoculation drives.

The Daily Mail, in a piece based in part on AFP's ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Philippine Activists Slam Japan's Refusal to Express Apologies over Wartime Sex Slavery

MANILA- Philippine activists slammed Japan on Saturday for its continued refusal to express remorse and apology over wartime sex slavery 76 years after the end of World War II.

Lila Pilipina (League of Filipino Women) spokesperson Sharon Cabusao-Silva said hundreds of Filipino women who served as domestic and sex slaves to Japanese soldiers still demand justice.

Lila Pilipina is an organization of Filipino comfort women and their sympathizers in the Philippines fighting for recognition, apologies and reparations from the Japanese government for its unaddressed sexual slavery crimes against Asian women.

The Japanese occupation of the Philippines occurred between 1942 and 1945. Hundreds of thousands of women from around Asia, including China, South Korea, ... (More on P4)...(20)



Philippines occurred between 1942 and 1945. Hundreds of thousands of women from around Asia, including China, South Korea, ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Japan Issues Highest Emergency Alert for over 1mn People as Heavy Rain 'Like Never Before' Triggers Evacuations



Japan's meteorological service has put three prefectures and the city of Hiroshima on the highest possible emergency alert, which means it's too late to evacuate elsewhere, as torrential rains cause flooding and mudslides.

The highest-possible Level 5 "special" weather warning was issued for Saga, Nagasaki and Fukuoka prefectures in the country's southwest on Saturday, as rains continue to batter parts of Japan. Earlier, the same warning was issued for the city of Hiroshima after several rivers running through the region were deemed at high risk of overflowing.

In its advisory on Saturday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said that "there is a high possibility that some kind of disaster has already occurred" in the areas that are especially prone to mudslides

and flooding. "It's been raining heavily like never before," the agency noted.

The agency pointed out that it was "too late to evacuate if the special warning is announced." The Level 5 alert is considered to be a stage "beyond evacuation," when residents are urged to take whatever action is needed to protect their lives, such as moving to a higher floor if they are hunkering down at home.

The highest-level alert now applies to more than one million people, NHK estimated.

Another 4.28 million people have been subject to a Level 4 evacuation warning, which is currently in effect for 17 prefectures. While the Japanese government does not issue formal evacuation orders, the residents in affected areas were encouraged to evacuate as quickly as possible.

Unprecedented rainfall ... (More on P4)...(22)

## 'Welcome to Nazi Germany': in Now-Deleted Tweet, Sydney Mayor Compares Strict New Lockdown Laws to Hitler-Era Regime

A Western Sydney official has compared the latest anti-Covid measures imposed on his area by the New South Wales (NSW) state government to the times of Nazi Germany. His comment, since removed, caused a rumpus on social media.

Mayor Steve Christou, of Cumberland City Council, tweeted an official graphic illustrating new lockdown rules on Friday. Having posted the image that warned residents requires them to have a permit to leave the region and to register their personal details to be allowed to visit a "singles buddy" within a five-kilometer (three-mile) reach, he wrote: "Welcome to Nazi Germany." The comment from the councillor, who describes himself as having "a tendency to speak what I think," was later deleted.

The official has previously expressed his opposition to the tightening of lockdown rules and any mandatory vaccination, describing the situation as "dictatorial madness." ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Zambia: Hakainde Hichilema Takes Early Presidential Election Lead

Zambia's opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema has taken an early lead in the country's presidential election over incumbent Edgar Lungu, according to the first results from the electoral commission on Saturday.

Hichilema tallied 171,604 votes versus the 110,178 garnered by Lungu in the results for 15 of the southern African nation's 156 constituencies.

Those 15 constituencies include perceived Lungu strongholds, suggesting that Hichilema has gained ground since the last elections in 2016, when he lost by a slim margin in a contested vote marred by allegations of rigging by Lungu.

A total of 296,210 votes were cast in those constituencies, representing a 71.75 percent turnout rate, chief electoral officer Patrick Nshindano told a media briefing in the capital, Lusaka.

The first results, initially expected on Friday, were delayed after counting went on overnight because of the huge voter turnout and because political parties objected to the electoral commission's initial figures in one constituency, which differed from those from monitors on the ground.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia allowed the last polling station to remain open until 5am (03:00 GMT) on Friday to give people who queued for hours an opportunity to ... (More on P4)...(26)

Daily Outlook  
Weather Forecast



<b>Kabul</b>	Sunny	<b>Bamiyan</b>	Sunny	<b>Herat</b>	Sunny	<b>Mazar</b>	Sunny	<b>Kandahar</b>	Sunny	<b>Ghazni</b>	Mostly sunny	<b>Jalalabad</b>	Sunny
31°C	16°C	21°C	8°C	33°C	17°C	34°C	21°C	39°C	22°C	16°C	29°C	34°C	25°C



## NATO Allies Meet on Afghanistan, Criticize Taliban Violence

NATO allies met on Friday in the North Atlantic Council to consult on the situation in Afghanistan, the alliance said in a statement, vowing support to the Afghan government and criticizing Taliban attacks "on Afghan civilians." "We continue to assess the developments on the ground, and we are in constant contact with the Afghan authorities and the rest of the international community," NATO said.

"Our aim remains to support the Afghan government and security forces," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said. "We maintain our diplomatic presence in Kabul and the security of our personnel is paramount." The statement added that NATO allies are deeply concerned about the high levels of violence caused by the Taliban's offensive, including attacks on civilians, targeted killings, and reports of other

serious human rights abuses. "The Taliban need to understand that they will not be recognized by the international community if they take the country by force. We remain committed to supporting a political solution to the conflict," the statement said. This comes as Taliban continues its offensives on Afghanistan's major cities. Over the last week, Taliban seized ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (8)

## US to Destroy Sensitive Materials at Embassy in Kabul



KABUL - As the Taliban are gaining provinces especially those which are adjacent to Kabul and the so-called isolation of Kabul is taking shape, CNN and Fox News have found that the US embassy is destroying materials that they consider to be used in propagating.

Sources have told CNN that the personnel in the Kabul-based US embassy have been directed to take advantage and reduce the number of sensitive materials in the property. Earlier, US intelligence personnel were cited that the isolation of the Afghan capital could happen in one month which will finally collapse Kabul in three months. The latest intelligence assessment found by CNN indicates that Kabul could be isolated in 72 hours. US department of state has said that, as per the standard of reducing footprint in any part of the world, they are applying the procedure of destroying sensitive materials. As per ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (10)

## As Taliban Attacks Continue, People Rush to Kabul



KABUL, Afghanistan - For weeks the Taliban has been moving towards the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the biggest city in the north of Afghanistan. With last week's captures of Herat and Kandahar, Mazar, Jalalabad and Kabul remain the only major cities still under government control as the Taliban heads closer to the capital itself.

For people in Mazar, though, the fear first reached a fever pitch when the Taliban launched attacks on the district of Dehdadi late last week. Only 11km (seven miles) from Mazar, the district is also home to the 209th Shaheen Corps, a 30,000-strong force meant to protect 114 districts across 10 provinces. Although the armed group's attack failed, it still caused major alarm for residents of one of Afghanistan's economic and cultural hubs. Abdul Wahab was on a business trip from Kabul when the news broke. He was immediately told to leave his well-guarded \$77 a night hotel and stay in the homes of friends. "The rich and powerful go there, of course, it will be targeted," his ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (12)

## Sweeping Conquests Challenge US Hopes of Better-Behaved Taliban

KABUL - Recent Taliban advances in Afghanistan are challenging the Biden administration's hopes that a desire for international respect, and for international aid and cash, may moderate the group's worst behaviors when the US ends its

war in the South Asian country. While showing interest in a diplomatic settlement, Taliban commanders have accelerated their battlefield advances ahead of the US military's withdrawal at the end of August. The group has at least 17 provinces under

its control. Quoted by the Associated Press, rights groups have said that others have acted much like the brutal Taliban the US overthrew in 2001. That includes allegedly killing detainees en ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (9)

## Saleh Says Govt Will Continue Fight Against Taliban

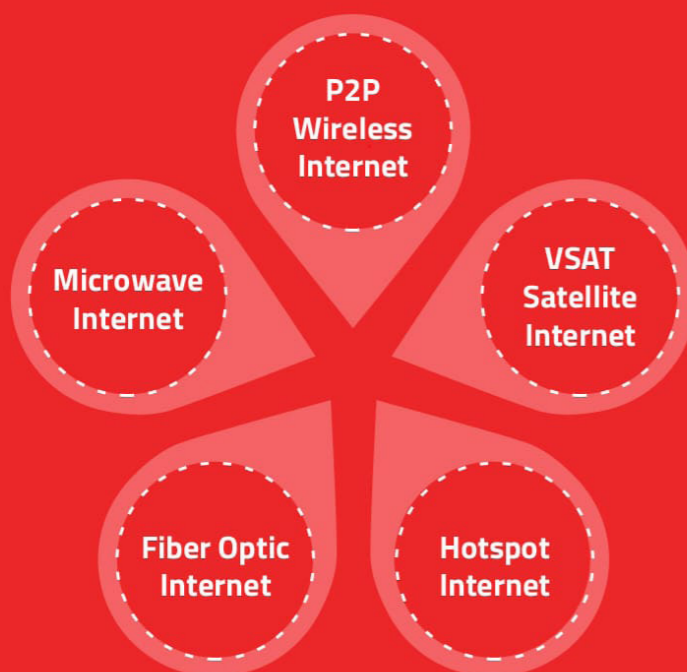


KABUL - First Vice President Amrullah Saleh on Friday said the government will continue its fight against the Taliban by fully supporting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and the public uprising forces. Saleh said it was a key decision made by the government's security meeting chaired by Presi-

dent Ghani. "In today's meeting on national security chaired by President Ashraf Ghani, it was decided with conviction and resolve that we stand firm against Taliban terrorists and do everything to strengthen the national resistance by all means and ways," Saleh said in a tweet. In another post, Saleh said that the Taliban will be defeated and that he will never surrender to the group. He did not provide details on the reasons behind the current situation in the country but said he will not bow to any deal named peace with the nature of surrender. "I will never accept Taliban domination on the people of Afghanistan ...

More on (Page 4)  
Num (11)

HIGH SPEED & MOST RELIABLE INTERNET SERVICES FOR YOUR OFFICIAL USE ALL OVER AFGHANISTAN



+93 796 701 701 | sales@uatelecom.af

+93 796 702 702 | uatelecom.af

#StayConnected |

- DEDICATED INTERNET
- FREE INSTALLATION
- 24/7 CUSTOMER SERVICE

