

Page 2 | NATIONAL
Afghan Warlord's Promotion Highlights the Bankruptcy of America's Longest War

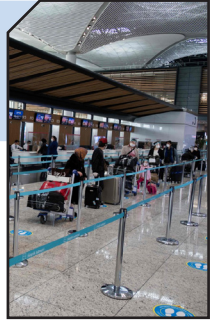
Behold, River Surfing in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a landlocked nation, but deep in the Hindu Kush mountains there's a fickle, barely rideable river wave. It ain't ...

Page 2 | NATIONAL

Page 3 | ECONOMY

Turkey suspends flights to Iran, Afghanistan amid COVID-19 outbreak



Kabul
36 / 21



Herat
37 / 24



Nangarhar
39 / 28



Balkh
40 / 27



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Monday, July 20, 2020

Issue No. 810

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Police arrest 16 criminals in Kabul

The Afghan National Police (ANP) operations team has arrested 16 suspects in Kabul and its surrounding districts, the capital police said on Sunday.

"Sixteen suspects involved in different criminal cases were arrested by ANP in Kabul city Police Districts and districts on outskirts of Kabul province within the last several days," the police said in a statement.

The arrestees were taken to the Kabul police headquarters for screening and possible legal process, the statement added.

The ANP also seized three rounds of weapons, a knife, a stolen oil truck and a stolen sedan during the operations, that were part of preventive measures being adopted to ensure a high level of security and safety in the national capital with nearly 5 million population.



Afghanistan's Shpageeza Cricket League to Begin on September 13 in Kabul

The seventh edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League will begin on September 13, Afghanistan Cricket Board said on Saturday.

The tournament will run for two weeks and the final will happen on September 25, with all the matches set to be played at Kabul Cricket Stadium.

The tournament has six teams - Amo Sharks, Band-e Amir Dragons, Boost Defenders, Kabul Eagles, Mis Ainak Knights and Spin Ghar Tigers. Mis Ainak Knights won the tournament last year.

The broadcasting rights agreement for the tournament was bagged by National Radio Television of Afghanistan (RTA). ...

P3

WJ refers 4 officials to AGO in embassy wall corruption case



Wolesi Jirga's (WJ) Justice Commission has referred four people, including two presidential advisors and Afghanistan's ambassador to the US, to the Attorney General Office (AGO) in connection to corruption allegations in the reconstruction of embassy wall in Washington DC.

The Commission also demanded to put the names of accused officials

on Exit Control List and arrest those outside the country with the support of Interpol.

In an official letter No. 139 on July, 19, 2020 of Wolesi Jirga's Justice Commission a copy of which available with Pajhwok Afghan News says after hearing from officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the reconstruction of embassy wall in Washington DC

in which massive corruption took place a decision was reached after hearing concerned authorities and it was decided that the case should be referred to the AGO for more investigation and inspection.

In the letter explained that former Finance Ministers Humayon Qayyumi, presidential Advisor Sargand, Finance Ministry Advisor Yama Nizam and Afghanistan's

Ambassador to the US Roya Rahmani should be referred to the AGO for more investigation.

"The above mentioned individuals if present in the country should be put on Exist Control List and individuals accused in this corruption case and stay in the foreign should be brought to the country with the support of Interpol."

Earlier, Meshrano Jirga decided to refer four government officials, including two presidential advisors, to the Attorney General Office (AGO) over corruption in reconstruction of the Afghan Embassy wall in Washington.

According to Pajhwok Afghan News investigative report, the Afghanistan Embassy in the United States reconstructed its boundary wall measuring 70 meters at a cost of around 1,825,839 US dollars after its reconstruction for \$88,000 was rejected by the embassy.

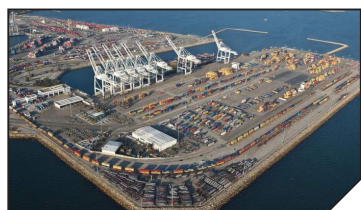
For building the 70-meter wall, KADCON Corporation has been given \$1,586,000, VIKA Company received \$12,750 for survey, ECS received \$12,250 for soil test, KCE received \$64,839 for technical advices and DLA Piper received \$150 for making contracts and legal consultation.

Afghan dried fruit consignment lands in China

The first consignment of Afghanistan's transit trade items has reached China through the Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar, a media report said on Sunday.

Afghanistan's first transit shipment of dried fruit was sent to Tianjin Port in China, Mehr News Agency quoted a senior Iranian official as saying. Behrouz Aghaei, the director-general of Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Organisation, said the cargo had been sent to the Indian port of Mundra via Chabahar.

Afghanistan also sent three transit trade consignments to India via the Shahid Beheshti port last month, the official added.



Further reports of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan emerge

As the nation awaits the findings of an investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan, there's new evidence that Australian Forces killed up to 10 unarmed Afghan civilians during a 2012 raid in Kandahar Province. Australian sources and Afghan witnesses have told the ABC, that both civilians and members of the Taliban were shot during the raid, including a group of unarmed villagers near a tractor. These are not the first allegations of this kind. Earlier this year the ABC released a documentary called 'The Killing Fields' which detailed further atrocities, including three alleged incidents that a former SAS signals intelligence officer, who was deployed with the 3 Squadron SAS in 2012, called 'murder'.

One of the reported incidents involved a soldier on his first deployment to Afghanistan being pressured by higher-ranking officers



into executing an elderly, unarmed man as part of an initiation, or "bleeding ritual".

It was reported that on the same mission, an unarmed Afghan civilian with a prosthetic leg was targeted and callously hunted down by members of the SAS team. The man was allegedly then kicked off a cliff while handcuffed, causing severe injuries but not killing him. A senior soldier allegedly then directed others to "get him out of his misery." The man was allegedly executed and his plastic leg souvenired and taken

back to SAS headquarters in Perth, to be used as a novelty beer drinking vessel.

Braden Chapman, the man behind the story, says he was warned by another longer-serving member of the forces, shortly after joining the squadron in Uruzgan province that at times troops weren't necessarily operating within the expected guidelines. Chapman further alleges that Australian troops also destroyed people's homes and infrastructure, blew up private cars and shot animals. ...

P2

Further reports...

International pressure After the programme aired, international organisation, Human Rights Watch sent a letter to the Australian Defence Minister, Linda Reynolds calling for the Defence Department to reexamine previously dismissed cases of alleged summary executions and other war crimes in Afghanistan in light of new evidence. And more recently, footage emerged of an SAS soldier hunting down an unarmed Afghan civilian, standing over him while he is defenceless on the ground, asking his fellow officer "You want me to drop this cunt," then executing him.

The long-awaited IDGAF Report

The Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) has spent the past four years investigating reports of war crimes committed by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.

The investigation involves an assessment of more than 55 separate incidents of alleged breaches of the 'rules of war' between 2005 and 2016, and so far, more than 330 people have so far given evidence to the inquiry.

The IGADF report is expected to be delivered within weeks. Human Rights watch has also called on the Defence Minister to release the full IGADF report when it becomes available, in the public interest, and to ensure appropriate accountability. It also urged the Australian government to cease all legal action against those who reported these incidents, including whistleblowers, lawyers, and journalists acting in the public interest, should be dropped.

Whistleblowers are punished, not protected

There are growing fears here and internationally that the Australian government is failing to address the issue of alleged war crimes committed by Special Forces in Afghanistan in an open and upfront manner, instead preferring to introduce a range of legislation that will punish anyone who dares to speak out as well as those who provide a forum for them to do so.

In the meantime, former Australian Defence Force lawyer David McBride who was one of the original whistleblowers regarding the actions of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan is still fighting a legal battle which could see him imprisoned for 50 years.

He has pleaded not guilty to five charges, which consist of one count of the theft of Commonwealth property, three counts of breaching defence legislation and another count of unauthorised disclosure of information, relating to him handing over classified military documents to ABC journalists in 2016. These were the basis of the ABC documentary, The Afghan Files, which was the reason that the AFP raided the Sydney offices of the national broadcaster last year.

By EMRAN FEROZ

Afghan Warlord's Promotion Highlights the Bankruptcy of America's Longest War

When Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, his main political opponent, signed a power-sharing deal in May, it ended eight months of bitter post-election dispute. It also came with a disturbing price tag, one hashed out among rounds of backroom deals, tense negotiations, and desperate U.S. attempts to keep the government from imploding. Abdul Rashid Dostum, Ghani's vice president until last year and one of the country's most notorious warlords, demanded a promotion to the rank of marshal, only awarded twice before in Afghan history. Ghani, who'd long vowed to clean out the warlords, complied.

Dostum, whose militias are believed to have carried out one of the most notorious war crimes in modern Afghan history during the early days of the U.S.-led invasion, embodies much of what's gone wrong in contemporary Afghanistan—and especially the failed promise that the U.S. invasion would help create a cleaner, more transparent, more democratic state. Dostum still stands accused of torturing and ordering the rape of a political rival while in office as recently as 2016. After swift Western condemnation, Dostum fled to Turkey, where he enjoys a good relationship with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It wasn't his first flight to Turkey: In 2008, too, he'd sheltered in Ankara amid similar accusations that his men had abducted, beaten, and sexually assaulted a political opponent.

But instead of being prosecuted, Dostum is being promoted: His ascent to marshal became effective this week. While many critics, both Afghans and non-Afghans, observed the ceremony with indignation, Afghan media shrugged, while the warlord's supporters celebrated the promotion.

"I send congratulations to all of Afghanistan," said Mawlavi Baharuddin Jowzjani, a cleric and high-ranking official of Dostum's party, in an interview with Tolo News about the warlord's promotion. On social media, Dostum's son Batur Dostum bristled at criticism and said,



"such accusations will not harm the Marshal." According to an official of Ghani's government, "the President issued Dostum's promotion, but it was not his [Ghani's] decision. It was part of an agreement which was proposed by Abdullah," he told Foreign Policy.

"Bestowing on Dostum the title of marshal—after President Ghani vowed to have him prosecuted—illustrates yet again the complete failure of the Afghan government to deliver justice," said Patricia Gossman, an associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Dostum is only part of the sordid picture of impunity in Afghanistan, as no powerful political figures have been held accountable for crimes including torture, rape and murder. These cases make clear why the International Criminal Court should carry out its investigation in Afghanistan."

Dostum's career, and this week's crowning promotion, illustrate the role that warlords have played in shaping—and distorting—the fabric of modern Afghanistan. Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek, made his career in the 1980s, during the presidency of Mohammad Najibullah, Afghanistan's last communist leader. Najibullah, locked in a bitter fight against mujahideen, outsourced security in

large parts of the country to armed militias—such as Dostum's—with negligible government oversight.

Warlords have existed throughout Afghanistan's history, but they reached a peak in the 1990s as different factions, including Dostum's, fought each other for control of territory and resources. Warlords and their abuses even helped create the Taliban: After one local warlord and his militiamen captured and repeatedly raped two young girls, a mullah gathered some of his students to attack the warlord's fort. The then-unknown man was Mullah Mohammad Omar, who soon became the supreme leader of the newly formed group of militant students, or Taliban.

Dostum's kaleidoscopic loyalties were soon on full display. In the early 1990s, Dostum and his militia were an effective, bloody force targeting rural communities with ties to the mujahideen. Then, in 1992, Dostum turned on his former boss Najibullah, preventing the recently ousted president from leaving the country. As Afghanistan became mired in a bloody civil war that later gave rise to the Taliban, Dostum allied abruptly with each of the factions in turn. His militia, the Junbish-e-Milli, became notorious for ... **P3**

By Dashed Pierson

Behold, River Surfing in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a landlocked nation, but deep in the Hindu Kush mountains there's a fickle, barely rideable river wave. It ain't much; but it's their best shot at a domestic surf spot.

And back in 2018, a crew set out to surf it. Afridun "Afri" Amu, Afghanistan's first-ever surfer to compete in the ISA, was on that mission along with Canadian and German river surfers, Jacob Kelly Quinlan and Ben Di-Qual. For Afri, the operation had special significance, since, as a kid, his family fled to Europe where he learned to surf. For him, it was his first strike mission in his home country. But, as imagined in a war-torn and non-surfing nation, the journey came with some complications.

"We were surfing that wave and amongst all the cheering and the surrounding locals, one guy takes out a gun and points it at us," Afri told magicseaweed. "I had no clue what and why that was happening. Luckily the locals we were with could calm down that crazy guy and eventually everything went fine. But still, in that moment, everything could have exploded."

Since that first strike mission, a film titled Unsurfing Afghanistan documenting the trip has been slowly making its way to the big screen. And Afri's been doing his damndest to promote surfing

in Afghanistan – by training with the country's premier female surfer Urzala Weiss, advocating for an artificial wave in his homeland, and keeping the dream alive to one day see an Afghan surfer in the Olympics.

To hear more about what he's been up to since that groundbreaking session in the Hindu Kush mountains, magicseaweed's Jason Lock called up Afri, who's been holed up in Germany during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out their chat below. Definitely, there was quite a lot that progressed. You know, I'm talking pre-COVID of course. That's not an Afghan thing, that's a worldwide thing. Before all the corona stuff I was training with a Urzala Weiss, a female Afghan surfer because she wants to compete in the ISA World Games. Together with her, we were training in Indo, and we got invited by Chris Moore, Carissa's father, to go and train on Oahu. He's such a cool dude and really wants to help build up the Afghan surfing community. It was my first time on the North Shore. It was crazy.

So, train the kids to swim first – but where would they go surfing?

Well, the next step in this is to build an artificial wave in Afghanistan. You know better than I do, it seems to be super expensive, so, in a country like Afghanistan

where you've got so many other problems, it would have been quite a risky thing to put that much money in it. Plus, right now there might not be the market in the country to see positive returns.

Anyway, we've been looking at this static wave in Austria. This is actually super easy tech to use and one of the engineers in charge of that wave was one of the guys with me, surfing that wave in Afghanistan when we went in 2018.

He said it was something we can easily implement in Afghanistan, so this is something we're working on right now. Trying to build such a wave – we might be able to do it in the next year. Build it and it's not actually as dangerous as it first seems. I was in Austria with a filmer and we recorded a lot and we're trying to get someone to fund it – we are almost there with that, we think. That's a cool thing.

How did the training in Hawaii go? Just before that actually, I was training with Laird Hamilton, he does that XPT training – it's like breath work for stressful moments and surfing big waves. For moments when everything has to be on point.

Is that because you're planning on surfing big waves?

Couple of things [laughs]. It was for training for the World Games. But yes, I'm totally into bigger waves. ... **P3**

Afghanistan's Sphageeza...

"High quality broadcasting of the league is our priority and I am pleased that ACB and RTA could collaborate again for the same purpose after a successful sixth edition last year," ACB CEO Lutfullah Stanikzai said.

"It is a pleasing news that we get to collaborate with ACB again. RTA always strives for quality when it comes to broadcasting matches to our cricket fans," Himatullah Niazmand said on behalf of RTA.

Top Afghan players, including the likes of Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi, resumed training last month at the Kabul Cricket Stadium, focusing on strengthening batting, bowling and overall performance of the team.

Apart from competing at the T20 World Cup, whose fate is still shrouded in uncertainty, Afghanistan are scheduled to play a lone Test against Australia in Perth, starting 21 November. List of players part of the training camp: Asghar Afghan (C), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Hazrathullah Zazai, Karim Janat, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Gulbadin Naib, Rashid Khan, Naveen ul Haq, Shapoor Zadran, Qais Ahmad, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Azmatullah Omerzai, Samiullah Shinwari, Usman Ghani, Mohammad Shahzad, Sayed Shirzad, Darwish Rasooli, Zahir Khan Paktin, Farid Malik, Hamza Hotak and Sharafudin Ashraf.

Turkey suspends flights to Iran, Afghanistan amid COVID-19 outbreak

Turkey has suspended all flights to Iran and Afghanistan as part of measures against the coronavirus outbreak, the Transport and Infrastructure Ministry said on Sunday.

A spokesman for Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, Reza Jafarzadeh, earlier on Sunday said Turkey halted all flights to Iran until further notice amid the outbreak in the country, according to the official IRNA news agency. The suspension of flights began on Saturday, Jafarzadeh said.

Turkey had gradually restarted international flights as of June 11 as it eased lockdown measures.

Iran has been hardest hit by the pandemic in the Middle East, with infections and deaths rising sharply since restrictions were eased, beginning in mid-April.

The border between Turkey and Iran was closed after the outbreak. It has been reopened for trade only.

During their meeting in Istanbul in mid-June, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif said the two countries

were working toward reopening their borders for travelers.

In what took many by surprise was Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's statements on Saturday when he estimated that as many as 25 million Iranians could have been infected with the coronavirus since the outbreak's beginning.

The 25 million figure put forward by Rouhani is nearly a third of the population and massively higher than the official number of COVID-19 cases. Official case numbers rose to 273,788 on Sunday, with 14,188 deaths, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said.

Iranian health officials sought on Sunday to play down the president's estimate, saying it was based on serological blood tests that measure exposure to the illness and that cannot be relied on to show the current state of disease.

A Health Ministry statement carried by Iranian news media said the figure given by the president was based on numbers produced by a deputy



in the ministry. "It is not possible to rely on serological tests to diagnose the current state of the disease," the statement said.

Parliament deputy Alireza Salimi called on the government to come up with a single official figure for coronavirus cases.

A coronavirus task force official said Saturday the 25 million were "mildly affected patients who ... did not need to seek medical advice."

In announcing the 25 million estimate, Rouhani did not say what the figure was based on but added that 30 million-35 million more were possibly at risk.

On the other hand, some 35,229 COVID-19 cases have been officially reported in Afghanistan as of Sunday. The death toll in the country stood at 1,147, according to government figures. The Afghan Red Crescent Society last week said the country was "on the edge of potential health, social and economic catastrophes" as growing COVID-19 cases stretch a health infrastructure already severely weakened by decades of war.

It said the real toll of the pandemic on the Afghan population is expected to be much higher and remains underreported due to limited testing.

Behold, River...

I don't want to pretend I'm surfing crazy, big waves right now. But I've always been passionate about bigger waves – either you like it or you don't. For me, it's one of the craziest feelings in surfing dropping in bigger waves. That's a thing I want to explore more. And what better person to work with than Laird. Laird was kinda a hero when I was younger and I couldn't turn down an opportunity to work with him. He was as superhuman as I thought he was going to be, but at the same time, amazed at how down to earth he is. Really interested in Afghan surfing.

That's rad to meet one of your heroes...

[Laughs.] Yeah you know, in a way, I had the same thing with Kelly Slater too. Met him at the World Surfing Games. He was surfing the heat before me. But we ended up playing chess together. He was really into it and talking about endgames and fooling around.

Did you offer to play him?

I did! I think he had just recently picked it up – I gave him some tactical puzzles and showed him some endgame. He still owes me a game though. He was super competitive... but super humble and engaged with everything. [Laughs.] That's rad to meet one of your heroes...

[Laughs.] Yeah you know, in a way, I had the same thing with Kelly Slater too. Met him at the World Surfing Games. He was surfing the heat before me. But we ended up playing chess together. He was really into it and talking about endgames and fooling around.

Did you offer to play him?

I did! I think he had just recently picked it up – I gave him some tactical puzzles and showed him some endgame. He still owes me a game though. He was super competitive... but super humble and engaged with everything. [Laughs.] That's rad to meet one of your heroes...

[Laughs.] Yeah you know, in a way, I had the same thing with Kelly Slater too. Met him at the World Surfing Games. He was surfing the heat before me. But we ended up playing chess together. He was really into it and talking about endgames and fooling around.

Afghan Warlord's...

looting, raping, torturing, and killing. He ruled his own personal fiefdom in the country's north until the Taliban dismantled it in 1998.

Three years later, he seized his chance to return—and to rebuild his power. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001—carried out by al Qaeda, which was under Taliban protection at the time—Dostum, like many other returning warlords, embraced the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan. It was in the early days of the subsequent U.S.-led war that Dostum and his men allegedly carried out the massacre of Dasht-e-Leili, in which hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of Taliban prisoners were reportedly tortured and executed while in transit to Sheberghan prison, Dostum's stronghold in northern Afghanistan. Sealed containers held 200 to 300 prisoners each. Reports from survivors of the transports described bound men, locked in the containers for several days without food or drink, resorting to licking the sweat off each other's bodies and even biting into other prisoners' bodies in their desperation to obtain fluids from any source. Few survived. The veteran Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid described the massacre as "the most outrageous and brutal human rights violation of the entire war."

The next year, Dostum received not censure, but his first big promotion to general, a gift from the pro-American government in Kabul led by then-President Hamid Karzai. That helped usher in a new era of warlordism in a country still recovering from the civil war, and it helped undermine trust and belief in the government, which ultimately helped pave the way for the recent resurgence of the Taliban,

who are gaining in numbers and audacity just months after signing a peace deal with the departing Americans.

Apart from accusations of torture and rape against political opponents, Dostum's militia continued to attack civilians in northern Afghanistan. In several cases, Pashtun villagers were murdered and injured under the pretext of "anti-Taliban operations" by Dostum's men. According to witnesses, several villages were terrorized by the militiamen who faced total impunity thanks to Dostum's position as vice president.

Then, in mid-May, Ghani made clear that one of the prices of securing political peace was to throw another bone to a man who littered Afghanistan with so many. While large parts of the country are controlled or contested by a resurgent Taliban, high-ranking politicians gathered in Jowzjan, Dostum's home province in northern Afghanistan, to pin on Dostum's new gold-braid shoulder boards. Oddly, the only man missing from the ceremony was Ghani himself—perhaps because Dostum's latest act of political rehabilitation was a direct repudiation of the very visions of governance that the professor-turned-president laid out in his 2008 book, *Fixing Failed States*. "The political elite of Afghanistan had a rare opportunity to found a functioning state," he and his co-author wrote. "Most of them, however, chose to put private before public interest and carried on with their faction agendas and seizure of private gain."

Of course, many observers argue that Dostum's promotion, while jarring, simply reveals a much broader pattern of war crimes and impunity in Afghanistan, where warlords like Dostum are celebrated and their histories

whitewashed by the country's political elite.

"There is not the slightest doubt that Dostum has committed war crimes and had former or current political allies brutally assaulted," said Thomas Ruttig, a co-director of the Afghanistan Analysts Network. "But among the warlords active in the 1990s, he has often been singled out as particularly bad. From my point of view, he was just an easier target as he had been associated with the former Communist government."

Other warlords have been beyond any public criticism in Afghanistan, while some of them have more real power than Dostum's often ceremonial titles, Ruttig said.

But for many jaundiced observers, men like Dostum would not have seen such an upswing in their fortunes without years of U.S. intervention in the country.

"How can anyone have faith in a government that overlooks war crimes, or worse, elevates its war criminals to the highest positions of public office?" said Erik Edstrom, a former U.S. soldier and author of the recently published book *Un-American: A Soldier's Reckoning of Our Longest War*.

Edstrom, who deployed in 2009 as an infantry lieutenant in Afghanistan, has become an outspoken critic of the legacy of American intervention, and he links the promotion of the likes of Dostum directly to Washington's involvement in the country.

"A government that coddles war criminals and turns a blind eye towards atrocities is a government that promotes hypocrisy, cynicism, and distrust," he told Foreign Policy. "The hypocrisy around war crimes is a feeling that unites Americans and Afghans, alike."

Exchange Rates

76.1	\$	76.2
82.1	€	82.2
91.1	£	92.2
476	Rp.	477
19.6	دراهم	19.7
890	₹	900

Contact Numbers

Kabul Police - 119

Kabul Ambulance - 112

Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital

0202301360

Ata Turk Hospital

0202500312

Corona call center - 166



Aksos

اکسوس کتابپلورنژی
Aksos Book Store

Add a Book
to
Your Life



Heart of Asia

Chief Editor: M. Hamid Hamdard

Reporters: Safiullah Nasary, Shafiq Amirzay,

Jawad Temori & Hameedullah Hamidi

Graphic & Design: Arman

Phone: +93-202502100 - +93-777989696

Website: www.heartofasia.af

Email: heartofasiadaily@gmail.com

Address: Behind Rahman Baba High School

- Opposite to 3rd District,

Kabul - Afghanistan

Print: Waygal Printing .Co - +93 - 202512626

Dehbori Crossroads in front of Park Kabul

0798 98 9696, 020 250 46 52

aksosbookstore@gmail.com

www.aksosbookstore.af

Aksos Book Store

Aksos Book Store

Two missiles hit area near U.S. embassy in central Baghdad - TV

Two missiles hit Baghdad's Green Zone, near the US embassy, Iraq's Al Sumaria television channel reported on Thursday. One more missile fired at central Baghdad exploded in another quarter of the Green Zone, Al Sumaria said citing a source in the Iraqi security agencies. According to the source, it was impossible to spot the site where the missiles had been fired from. No data about casualties or damages were immediately

available. According to the television channel, the missile attack was staged when Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was visiting the Iraqi capital. At the very moment of the attack, the Iranian top diplomat was finishing a series of talks with the Iraqi top officials in the Green Zone. The Green Zone, or the International Zone, is a heavy guarded diplomatic and government area in Baghdad.



A look at the world

Trump refuses to commit to accepting November election results

United States President Donald Trump refused to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming presidential election in November, while also declining to say if the Confederate flag was an offensive symbol. In an interview with Fox News host Chris Wallace broadcast on Sunday, Trump said it was too early to make such an ironclad guarantee, echoing a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote and scoffing at recent polls that show him lagging behind presumptive Democratic candidate Joe Biden.



"I have to see. Look ... I have to see," Trump said. "No, I'm not going to just say yes. I'm not going to say no, and I didn't last time either." The Biden campaign responded: "The American people will decide this election. And the United States government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House." While considered remarkable that a sitting president would express less than complete confidence in American democracy's electoral process, the statement follows Trump's playbook of four years ago, when in the closing stages of his race against Hillary Clinton he said he would not commit to honouring the election results if the Democrat won. Pressed during an October 2016 debate about whether he would abide by the voters' will, Trump responded he would "keep you in suspense".

Turkish-made robot used to destroy explosives in Libya



A Turkish-made robot was used to safely detonate improvised explosive devices (IED) and destroy ammunition in Libya. Bomb squad teams effectively used the TMR 2 (Kutlu) for safe disposal of the dangerous material in the capital Tripoli, Turkey's National Defense Ministry said on Twitter. The ministry also posted footage of a Turkish soldier using the robot to do the job by remote control. Attacks by warlord Khalifa Haftar's forces - who sought to capture Tripoli - have left their mark on Libyan cities. Libya has been torn by civil war since the ouster of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Libya's new government was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement, but efforts for a long-term political settlement failed due to a military offensive by Haftar's forces. The UN recognizes the Libyan government headed by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, based in Tripoli, as the country's legitimate authority. Turkey supports the Tripoli government and signed a security cooperation agreement with it last November. Also, The Yemeni army said on Sunday a rebel commander was killed in clashes in the southern Ad Dali' province. The army's September Net website said Ali Mohamed Ali al-Zarqi was killed, along with a number of Houthi rebels, in the city of Qa'taba in the province. According to the website, Yemeni forces carried out a surprise attack on the rebels, leaving a number of them dead and injured, but did not give an exact number of casualties. There was no comment from Houthi rebels on the claim.

France to compel people to wear face masks in closed public spaces

People in France will be compelled to wear face-masks in closed public spaces from Monday, a measure to stem the coronavirus transmission in the country. It was revealed by the country's Health Directorate - Direction générale de la Santé, also known as DGS - to news agency AFP on Sunday. Venues concerned include meeting and performance halls, cinemas, restaurants, hotels, game rooms, educational centres, holiday centres, libraries, places of worship, indoor sports venues, museums, stations and airports.



"Stores, shopping centres, administrations, banks and covered markets" have also been added to the list, the DGS said, while masks remain mandatory on public transport too. President Emmanuel Macron said on July 14 that face-masks would become obligatory from August 1, but the date was quickly brought forward amid concerns expressed by scientists after "slight signs" of a resurgence in the virus. "The health situation in France (excluding Mayotte and Guyana which are still undergoing the first wave), after several weeks of decline and stabilization of the epidemic, shows signs of a slight deterioration, but still uncertain", the DGS stated, as it urged everyone to be vigilant to avoid an "epidemic rebound". The date was brought forward also because of worries the virus might spread in the air - a possibility the World Health Organisation did not rule out.



Shigal
English Academy

شیگل انگلیش اکادمی

Easy
English
Learning



Dehbori, 2nd Street Behin
Park, 3rd District, Kabul



+93 (0) 789 98 9696



shigal.edu@gmail.com



Shigal English Academy



www.shigal.edu.af