



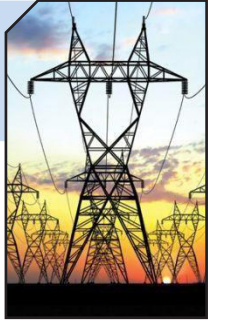
Page 2 | NATIONAL
The Big Question:
What Price Peace in
Afghanistan?

Army to shut down units created to help soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq

The Army intends to close two units developed to fix problems faced by troops fighting America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ...

Page 3 | ECONOMY

ADB grant to help
enhance power supply
in Afghanistan



Kabul
 25 / 11



Herat
 28 / 9



Nangarhar
 34 / 19



Balkh
 26 / 12



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Issue No. 846

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Protesters from west start civil disobedience campaign

Some residents of the country's western zone on Monday set alight their protest ten in Kabul after being ignored by the government and announced a civil disobedience movement.

In July this year, some lawmakers and residents from Ghor, Badghis, Herat, Farah and Nimroz provinces erected a protest tent in front of the Wolesi Jirga gate to demand preservation of their rights in the political decision making process. They also asked the government to appoint intellectual personalities from their provinces to key posts.

But a number of these protesters today staged a demonstration and set alight their tent after realizing they had been neglected by the government. ... **P2**



Rahmon, Khalilzad discuss Afghan peace talks

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, supporting Kabul's stance on peace and stability, has welcomed the start of intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

He said this during a meeting with US Special Representative for Reconciliation in Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad in Dushanbe on Sunday.

In a statement from his office, Rahmon and Khalilzad discussed cooperation between Tajikistan and the US on intra-Afghan negotiations and the current state of security in Afghanistan and in the region.

Rahmon promised his country would continue to make efforts to help resolve the problems of Afghanistan and its socio-economic recovery.

The need for enhanced cooperation against modern threats and challenges, including terrorism, extremism and illegal drug trafficking, also came up for discussion.

president Ghani visits Qatar as peace talks go on



The Afghan president landed in Doha, Qatar, on Monday where crucial intra-Afghan talks between the Kabul government representatives and the Taliban are underway, an official confirmed. The president's spokesman Sediq

Sedqiqi said in a series of tweets that President Ashraf Ghani first visited Kuwait to pay homage to the late emir Sheikh al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah

"We highly appreciate your coming personally and be with us in our sad

days, and hope to have you in our happy days too," he quoted the prime minister of Kuwait as saying. Later in the day, the Afghan leader would visit Doha where he is set to meet Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, emir of Qatar; Sheikh Khalid

bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani, the prime minister of Qatar, and a number of other senior officials to discuss the Afghanistan-Qatar bilateral relations and mutual cooperation in various areas.

Dawa Khan Meenapal, another spokesman of the Afghan leader, told Anadolu Agency on Monday no meeting is scheduled between Ghani and the Taliban leaders based in Doha.

"The President would only meet peace delegates representing the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," he said.

According to the official statement, during the visit, Ghani is also scheduled to address a gathering of Qatar's prominent diplomats, academics and students at Doha Institute.

Stalemate in intra-Afghan talks Ghani's visit comes as representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban continue to engage in agenda-setting talks for the landmark intra-Afghan talks in Doha since Sept. 12. According to the local Salam Afghanistan radio, the two negotiating teams are faced ... **P3**

Taliban Insurgents Killed in Helmand Clashes

Fourteen Taliban insurgents were killed in a series of clashes in Helmand.

The clashes took place last night in outskirts of Lashkargah and Nawa districts.

Helmand police press office said in a news release that 14 Taliban insurgents, including two local commanders, had been killed in the fighting.

Police say the Taliban were targeted from ground and air strikes of security troops, when they attacked military bases.

According to another report, with discovery of eight mines prevented a series of explosions in the busiest places of Helmand.



Suicide Car Bomb Targets Laghman Governor, Many Killed

The convoy of Rahmatullah Yarmal, governor of Laghman province, was targeted Monday morning by a blast in the center of Laghman province, local officials confirmed.

Asadullah Dawlatzai, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the blast and said that the governor has survived but casualties are feared.

The spokesman said that the governor was targeted as he traveled between his guest house and his office.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that four of the Laghman governor's guards were killed along with four civilians. 38 civilians were also wounded in the suicide attack, the Mol said. No group, including the Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the



attack.

Former President, Hamid Karzai has strongly condemned a "terrorist attack" that killed and injured civilians in the eastern Laghman province.

However, Parwan officials said three people were killed and four were injured when their

car overturned along the Kabul-Parwan highway on Monday morning.

Abdul Salim Noori, spokesperson for the Parwan Police said that the incident took place at around 6:30 a.m. in the Robot area.

Noori said the station wagon (saracha) veered off course ... **P2**

Suicide Car...

when its veered off course, hit the median and overturned.

The driver, a woman and a three-year-old child were killed while three others were injured.

Officials said that the reason of the accident was over speeding which led to the driver losing control of the vehicle.

According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), at least 1,282 civilians were killed and 2,176 others wounded in the first six months of this year.

Violence in Afghanistan has not abated even as representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban are holding intra-Afghan negotiations in Qatar, where the Taliban have a political office.

Assad: Russian...

most of the territory he lost in a decade-long conflict.

Several world and regional powers have intervened in the Syrian civil war since it broke out in 2011. While Russia and Iran supported the Assad-led government, the United States backed Kurds in the north and Turkish troops fought alongside rebel groups in the northwest against both Damascus and the Kurds. Israel also frequently bombed Syrian government and Iranian targets.

After the once powerful ISIL terrorist group was seriously weakened over the last two to three years, countries such as Russia, Turkey, Iran and the U.S. continued their struggle for influence in Syria.

By James Gibney

The Big Question: What Price Peace in Afghanistan?

This is one of a series of interviews by Bloomberg Opinion columnists on how to solve pressing policy challenges. This conversation has been edited and condensed.

James Gibney: Peace talks started in Doha, Qatar, on Sept. 12 between the Afghan government and the Taliban. More than 2,400 American troops have died in Afghanistan since 2001, more than 20,000 have been wounded, and the U.S. has spent close to \$1 trillion fighting the Taliban and supporting the government. From 2013 to mid-2017, you were the deputy and then acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the State Department, and your work at the RAND Corporation and now the International Crisis Group still focuses heavily on Afghanistan. What goals should the U.S. have for the successful conclusion of these talks?

Laurel Miller: At the top of the hierarchy of U.S. national interests are concerns about terrorism — Al Qaeda still has somewhat of a presence in the Afghanistan/Pakistan area, ISIS is there, and so are other terrorist groups that pose a regional threat. What you want to see emerge from the negotiations is a government that is a potential partner in dealing with U.S. terrorism concerns and has the capacity to do so. The U.S. also needs a result that doesn't destabilize regional security dynamics, like intensifying competition between Pakistan and India over Afghanistan. And the U.S. wants any government that results from a peace process to protect as much as possible the rights of women and minorities, and the kinds of civil liberties and freedom that have, to some degree, taken hold in Afghanistan over the last 20 years. There's also the question of whether any peace agreement upholds U.S. credibility. Will this be the kind of agreement that merely leads to an infamous "decent interval" like that which preceded the collapse of South Vietnam after the Paris peace talks? From a broader perspective than U.S. interests, the number one goal should be getting a result that dramatically brings down the violence so Afghans can get on with their lives.

JG: In 2017, after you left government, you told Politico that "The United States has never really put the kind of political muscle and diplomatic muscle behind the effort in a consistent way that would be necessary to launch peace talks." So how did these talks get started? Did the Trump administration apply political and diplomatic muscle? Or did it just lower the bar?

LM: Both. The Trump administration decided in 2018 to prioritize getting out of Afghanistan, and that a peace process was the best way to do so. At the same time, it changed long-standing U.S. policy. In the past, the U.S. wanted to launch a peace process only with the Afghan government at the table from the get-go, and would not agree to a drawdown of U.S. troops before the Taliban met with the Afghan government. But the Trump administration agreed to a drawdown timetable in exchange for some counter-terrorism assurances and a commitment by the Taliban to enter into peace talks with the Afghan government. It was a concession to the Taliban. I happen to believe it was the only way to kick-start the talks. But as a result, the Taliban comes to these intra-Afghan talks in a strengthened position with enhanced legitimacy.

JG: Should the intensifying strategic competition between the U.S. and China change U.S. thinking about the importance of keeping troops in Afghanistan? What about, for example, the efforts of the U.S. to cultivate India as a strategic partner? Wouldn't a U.S. pullback from Afghanistan undermine that effort?

LM: Yes, to some extent. But unless the United States is willing to have no relationship with Pakistan, then there are always going to be differences between the U.S. and India on policy related to the region. It will be important to manage the Indian dissatisfaction with an American pullback from Afghanistan, and it will be important to stress to India that the U.S. is not going to be drawn into zero-sum thinking about its relationships in the region.

JG: How constructive have Afghanistan's other neighbors — powers such as Iran, Russia, China — been in regard to the peace talks?

LM: Even those countries that have strained relations with the U.S. have been essentially supportive of the U.S. peacemaking initiative and tolerant of the continued U.S. military presence. A chaotic Afghanistan is not in their interests. Iran is not going to say, "You go, America. What you're doing is fantastic." But I think there's an appreciation that it's better for them if it works than if it doesn't.

JG: When you were with the RAND Corporation, you wrote a paper that laid out a draft peace agreement and the pitfalls and spoilers involved in any Afghan peace process. It's still early days, but do you have a sense of whether your hopes or fears are closer to being realized?

LM: It's too early to say. Neither side has lost or

has absorbed the idea that they are losing on the battlefield. Both may still feel that they have alternatives to making compromises. A real sticking point is already emerging over the insistence of Afghanistan's government on an early ceasefire. There's just no-way, no-how that the Taliban are going to agree to an early ceasefire. The Taliban are fighting for power. Violence is their leverage. So I just don't see substantial reductions in violence coming until the process is much further along. Longer term, the biggest sticking point is going to be the system of government — what kind of modifications will there be in particular to bring more Islamic governance elements into the system?

JG: To what extent is the U.S. election shaping the dynamics of the peace talks?

LM: Why would either side make any significant moves or compromises until they know how that's going to turn out? They've all seen changes in the cast of U.S. characters before because this war has been going on so long. If Trump wins again, then things can just go on without any recalculations related to American politics. If Biden wins, then I think the whole process will be in the doldrums between the election and the inauguration.

JG: Given that, what should happen with the drawdown of U.S. military forces? What happens, for instance, if Trump loses and in the transition, continues to reduce the number, creating a strategic fait accompli for an incoming Biden administration?

LM: The U.S. has already said that troop levels will be drawn down to around 4,500 by the date of the election. That appears to have been long planned. If Biden wins, the real question is whether it's plausible that the rest of U.S. troops will be pulled out between February and the end of April, which is what's called for under the Doha agreement between the U.S. and Taliban. Every single deadline in that agreement has been violated so far. I don't think we're going to see 100% of American forces and contractors and everyone else pull out by the end of April. But that deadline does shorten the timetable for the U.S. to figure out what it's doing. Is a Biden administration really going to pull out, or is it going to try to renegotiate or reinterpret the terms of the Doha deal?

JG: What are the biggest sources of leverage the U.S. has to shape an agreement that achieves the hierarchy of goals you set out?

LM: The U.S. military presence is ...

P3

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Army to shut down units created to help soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq

The Army intends to close two units developed to fix problems faced by troops fighting America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the service said in a statement Friday. The Asymmetric Warfare Group and the Rapid Equipping Force will be deactivated by Sept. 30, 2021, the statement said. Personnel and resources from both organizations will be absorbed into the larger force, the Army said.

The closures are due to a shift in focus away from counterinsurgency operations, the Army said, toward large-scale combat and "great power competition," a term that often refers to countries such as Russia and China.

The decision comes as the U.S. looks to end its war in Afghanistan as part of a deal with the Taliban, with troop levels expected to drop to between 4,000 and

5,000 by the end of November, according to congressional testimony last month.

The Asymmetric Warfare Group, or AWG, sends military and civilian consultants to units in training and on the battlefield. The group, which began its missions in 2004, originally focused on countering the improvised explosive device threat in Iraq and grew to more than 300 members.

article continues below

Over the years, the group's projects included a fast-acting smoke grenade to obscure snipers, a system to remotely shoot dirt off suspicious mounds to check for buried bombs, and a portable tunnel training facility to train soldiers in subterranean warfare.

Advisers, often deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in pairs, also teach combat units how to counter specific enemy tactics.

The Rapid Equipping Force, headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Va., invented new equipment in response to what soldiers deployed to Afghanistan said they needed.

The organization debuted in 2002 and has a team based in Bagram Airfield. There, engineers talk to soldiers about challenges faced and try to create solutions.

In a visit by Stars and Stripes to the team in 2019, engineers showed off battery holsters, hands-free radio attachments and other inventions for soldiers manufactured via a 3D printer. Research by both organizations will be saved and maintained by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, the service said in its statement.

The decision to end the two organizations comes after the closure of Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands, another ...

P3

Protesters from...

Shamin Hashmi, one of the key members of Leadership Council of the people of Western Zone, said the purpose of today's protest was protection and preservation of their people's rights in political decision making. The people of Western Zone were ignored both in provinces and in the centre. Ziauddin Samim, the Western Zone council head and a resident of Herat province, said the the Western Zone was offered a small quota in the Cabinet at a

time when their people played a vital role in all process and had rendered sacrifices.

He said they had been protesting in the tent for the past three months and but the government ignored them and did not pay attention to their demands. "We decided to follow civil disobedience and in the first step we burnt this tent today," he said. The participants also passed a resolution in which they demanded the government to fulfill their demands.

EU chief in...

that has infected 7.4 million Americans and killed more than 209,000.

"It's a very interesting journey. I learned a lot about Covid," he said in a video posted to Twitter on Sunday.

A return to the White House might help Trump project a sense of normalcy as he faces a difficult re-election battle against Democrat Joe Biden.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Sunday showed Trump trailing

Biden by 10 percentage points. About 65 percent of Americans said Trump would not have been infected had he taken the virus more seriously.

Trump's doctors have said his health is improving and he could be sent back to the White House as soon as Monday. Yet they are treating Trump, 74, with a steroid, dexamethasone, that is normally used only in the most severe cases. He is also just two days into a five-day course of an intravenous antiviral drug, remdesivir.

ADB grant to help enhance power supply in Afghanistan

A \$110 million grant has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help improve energy sustainability and promote cross-border trade in Afghanistan. The funds will be used towards a project that help address Afghanistan's chronic power shortage by immediately doubling the volume of power imports and ensuring long-term cost-competitive electricity supply. It will also facilitate the Afghan system's first parallel (synchronous) operation with the Uzbek system and the Central Asia Power System (CAPS). "Demand for electricity is growing rapidly in Afghanistan and is essential for the country's economic growth," said ADB Energy Specialist Nana Gurgenedze. "The project will help provide reliable and affordable electricity to households and

businesses by strengthening the grid and increasing power import capacity by 900 megawatts, with year-round firm energy imports of 3,000 gigawatt-hours." Afghanistan relies on energy imports from neighbouring countries to meet its domestic demand, with only about 34% of the population having access to grid-connected electricity. The project will finance the construction of 201km of a 500-kilovolt overhead transmission line from the Surkhan substation in Uzbekistan to the Khwaja-Alwan substation in Afghanistan – a key interconnection node to receive power from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It will also fund the expansion of a line bay, including associated equipment, at the Khwaja-Alwan substation. The project will allow



Uzbek power into the Afghan grid under a 10-year power purchase and sales agreement signed in August 2020 by the Afghanistan and Uzbekistan governments. Under the project, staff, including female engineers at the national power utility Da Afghanistan

Breshna Sherkat (DABS), will be trained to manage cross-border power transfer and parallel operations, including emergency operation systems with CAPS. Hydropower is the dominant source of electricity in Afghanistan, with capacity in the country at 461MW.

president Ghani...

with a deadlock in talks, and a number of foreign mediators are trying to end the stalemate. Mohammad Naeem, the Taliban's Qatar office spokesman, has confirmed Germany's special envoy for Afghanistan Potzel Markus held a meeting with the group's leadership on Sunday. "This afternoon, a meeting took place in Doha between the head of the European Section of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Emirate (Taliban), Mullah Abdul Haq Wasiq, and his accompanying delegation; and the Special Representative of Germany for Afghanistan, Potzel Markus, and his accompanying delegation. "Both sides discussed in detail the issues of the intra-Afghan talks and the current situation in the country [Afghanistan]," he tweeted in Pashto, Dari and Arabic languages. Last week, the US special representative for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad also met with the Taliban leadership in Doha.

Army to shut down...

program created during the War on Terror. The "AfPak Hands" was much lauded at the time for training advisers in languages such as Dari, Pashto or Urdu. But that program faced criticism for stifling the careers of those who joined and ended Wednesday. Critics said the Army's decision to focus on large-scale warfare and shutter programs that addressed the counterinsurgency warfare common in Iraq and Afghanistan may be short sighted. "This is a familiar cycle," said Rebecca Zimmerman, an independent researcher formerly at the RAND Corp, on Twitter on Friday. "The Army always has to be told to do the missions it dislikes ... It lasts as long as senior leaders force it and then fades into not quite memory."

The Big Question...

leverage over the Afghan government, in the sense that it is still existentially dependent on U.S. security assistance in its counterinsurgency fight with the Taliban. It is less effective as leverage over the Taliban, because the Taliban knows that the U.S. wants to get out of Afghanistan. But the military presence also is leverage in a less mechanical sense because it keeps the U.S. relevant in Afghanistan and in the region. Even with the considerable erosion of U.S. influence, there's still no other actor to which everyone else — the regional countries, NATO allies, the Afghans themselves — looks to, however grudgingly, to push things along in Afghanistan. U.S. economic aid is direct leverage over the Afghan government and, in a more theoretical sense, over the Taliban. They'd like to be back in power, but preferably not in an impoverished, pariah state. They would like to have international legitimacy and their share of the gravy train that they didn't get to directly dip into over the last 20 years. On the other hand, I don't think they're going to be willing to pay a super-high price in terms of compromising their principles in exchange for some aid dollars. The third form of leverage is the U.S. ability, not fully tapped in my view, to bring together the countries of the region in some kind of collective, or at least simultaneous, exercise of their own leverage. If you can get everyone rowing in the same direction in applying pressure to the parties, that will be powerful and important, not only in getting a result, but in implementing any agreement. JG: You put the fight against terrorism at the top of your hierarchy of interests that the U.S. wants any peace agreement to advance. But if there is a power-sharing agreement with the Taliban, they're presumably not going to be keen about U.S. forces in the country. Can the

U.S. effectively pursue its anti-terror goals if it no longer has that military presence? LM: One of the debates that Washington has yet to have, on either the Republican or Democratic side, is whether the U.S. is really prepared to have zero troops in Afghanistan. People talk about a residual force, some continued longer term presence that's focused on counter-terrorism. I don't think that's a sustainable proposition: a successful peace process isn't likely to yield consent for the United States to keep troops in Afghanistan, because the Taliban won't agree to it. So, it's crucial that the U.S. think about alternative means of dealing with its counter-terrorism concerns that don't involve bases within Afghanistan. JG: That's a bracing thought. How did your views about Afghanistan shift over the time that you were working on it? Put another way, what did you know when you left your post as special representative that you wish you'd known when you started? LM: At the end, I was much more skeptical of Defense Department ambitions regarding the development of Afghan security forces and much more skeptical of their claims of potential progress in the war fighting. There have always been divergences between assessments of Afghanistan by the intelligence community and by the Pentagon. Intelligence analysis can only really project forward from past experience. The intelligence community can't factor in hypothetical success, as the Pentagon would do in talking about the potential impact of planned policies. So it was easier to see intelligence analyses as being too pessimistic. And let's face it, you're rarely held accountable for being too negative. By the time I finished, though, I felt that the intelligence community basically got it right all along. JG: You and I first met in the mid-1980s in Japan. Did you always envision that you'd be

doing this kind of work? LM: Well, Afghanistan wasn't exactly on my radar at the time. And I don't hold myself out as an expert on the country, per se. But I was always interested in international affairs, and foreign policy. And so I would say it was, in fact, my ambition, even back in our mutual youth, to be involved in that in some way. But "in some way" is always a winding path. It took me through the Balkans, the Bosnia peace process, Kosovo and the peace process in Macedonia. JG: What advice would you give to someone who wants to start off on that path? LM: Join the Foreign Service. That's the best way to guarantee that you are dealing with interesting foreign policy issues throughout your career. It's not to say that you're always dealing with actual policy making, or that you always get to choose, as you know even better than I, what you're working on. JG: Yes, indeed. And what should these budding diplomats watch for in these peace talks? What would you say is the bottom line for whether they can be judged a success from the U.S. point of view? LM: This might sound a little simplistic, but if these peace talks produce an agreement that these two Afghan sides in the conflict subscribe to, it will be de facto a success. I don't believe that they are going to agree to something that would be anathema to U.S. interests. The Afghan government side is not going to throw women's rights entirely under the bus, for instance. Will an agreement be exactly what I would write, what the American government would write, what Afghanistan's neighbors would? That's harder to say. But it's pretty unimaginable that they would not produce a result that is just fine for the U.S. And getting a result that ends most of the violence creates a whole new canvas for the U.S. to decide what kind of relationship with Afghanistan that it wants to try to paint.

Exchange Rates

76.7	\$	76.8
89.1	€	89.2
98.3	£	98.4
475	Rp.	476
20.7	دولار	20.8
1030	₹	1040

Contact Numbers

- Kabul Police -119
- Kabul Ambulance - 112
- Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital
0202301360
- Ata Turk Hospital
0202500312
- Corona call center - 166



WAYGAL Printing Co.

**If You Can Think It,
We Can ink it.**

OFFSET PRINTING

- Logo Design
- Business Card
- Books
- Letterheads
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- File Folders
- Brochure
- Flyers
- Calendars
- Posters
- other...

- +93 (0) 704 734 984
- +93 (0) 782 98 9696
- +93 (0) 202512626
- Dehbori Crossroads in Front of Park Kabul
- waygalprinting.co@gmail.com

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

Assad: Russian bases in Syria help keep balance of power in region

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said the continued presence of Russia's major naval and air bases in his country helps counter the influence of Western powers in the region as the battle to crush insurgents winds down.

In an interview with Russia's Ministry of Defense TV channel Zvezda on the fifth anniversary of Moscow's intervention in Syria that tipped the conflict in his favor, Assad said Russia's two main bases were important to counter the West's military presence in the region.

"This global military balance needs Russia's role ... this needs (military) bases ... we benefit from this," Assad said, adding Syria needed a presence that his military commanders say counters Washington's dominance in the region.

Alongside the Hmeimim base, from which Russia launches air strikes in support of Assad, Moscow also controls the Tartus naval facility in Syria, its only naval foothold in the Mediterranean, in use

since the days of the Soviet Union.

Russia launched air strikes in Syria against terrorist groups in September 2015 at the request of Damascus. The country began cementing its permanent military presence in 2017, following a deal with the Syrian government.

A Russian government document published last August showed that Syrian authorities have agreed to give Russia additional land and coastal waters in order to expand its military air base at Hmeimim.

Assad said his army, before Moscow's military intervention, had been facing a "dangerous situation" with an armed opposition directly funded and equipped by Washington and other Western powers, alongside Saudi Arabia and Qatar who had seized main cities and towns.

The Syrian president has been able, with Moscow's massive aerial power and Iranian-backed militias' support, to regain ...

P2



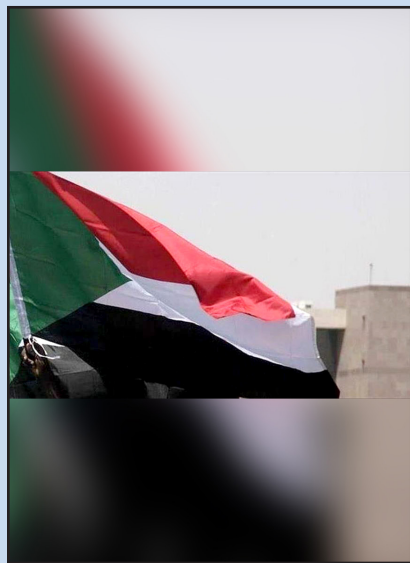
A look at the world

Protesters shut Sudanese port in protest of peace deal

Sudanese protesters shut the Southern Port of Sudan on Sunday in protest of a recently-signed peace deal with rebel groups.

On Saturday, the Sudanese transitional government signed a power-sharing deal with the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), an alliance of rebel groups, during a ceremony held in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Protesters shut down three gates leading to the port in protest of the deal, Abboud



el-Sherbiny, the head of the Maritime Ports Authority, told Anadolu Agency.

The deal "does not represent the people of eastern Sudan and we are against dependence on the foreign agenda," he said, without explaining.

El-Sherbiny vowed to continue protests "until our demands are fulfilled by scrapping the deal".

Saturday's deal followed a year of talks and came a few months after an initial agreement was reached on Aug. 31. It addresses matters related to the sharing of wealth and power, political and national issues, security arrangements, land ownership, and related disputes.

Other issues include justice, equality, reconciliation, and compensation in the Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Nuba Mountain regions.

Two major rebel groups -- the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North (SPLM/A-N) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) -- are not part of the peace deal.

U.S., Russia to hold latest nuclear arms talks in Finland



The United States and Russia will hold a round of nuclear arms control talks in the Finland's capital, Helsinki, on Monday to follow up on negotiations in Austria this summer, the Finnish president's office said.

"The round of discussions on strategic stability and nuclear weapons between the United States and Russia, which began in Vienna in the summer, will continue in Helsinki on Monday," the office of the Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said in a brief statement late Sunday.

The office said nuclear arms negotiators from Washington and Moscow met a previous time in Finland in 2017.

"Finland welcomes the negotiators, this time (U.S.) Ambassador (Marshall) Billingslea and (Russian) Deputy Foreign Minister (Sergei) Ryabkov," the statement said, adding that Niinisto would meet both representatives after the talks.

The talks are aimed at producing a new agreement to replace the New START treaty that expires in February -- the last remaining pact constraining the arsenals of the world's two major nuclear powers. According to Russian news agency TASS, the previous round of consultations between Billingslea and Ryabkov were held in Vienna on Aug. 17-18.

EU chief in self-isolation after COVID-19 contact

The European Commission president said Monday that she is self-isolating due to contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

"I've been informed that I participated in a meeting last Tuesday attended by a person who yesterday tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with regulations in force, I'm therefore self-isolating until tomorrow morning," Ursula von der Leyen wrote on Twitter.

The German politician added that she tested negative for the virus last week, and was tested again Monday.



She is not the first senior EU official to be quarantined in recent weeks.

Last month, European Council President Charles Michel went into self-quarantine after a security guard in his team contracted the novel virus.

As a result, the two-day EU Council meeting, scheduled for Sept. 24, was postponed until Oct. 1.

The summit went ahead on Thursday and Friday last week, and was attended by Von der Leyen. Hot topics such as Eastern Mediterranean, Belarus and Brexit were discussed.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump could be discharged from the hospital where he is being treated for Covid-19 as soon as today (on Monday), according to his doctors, although his condition remains unclear and outside experts warn that his case may be severe.

Sequestered at Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre outside Washington since Friday, Trump has released a series of videos in an effort to reassure the public that he is recovering from a pandemic ...

P2



Shigal

English Academy

شیگل انگلیش اکاډمی

Easy English Learning



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



+93 (0) 789 98 9696



shigal.edu@gmail.com



Shigal English Academy



www.shigal.edu.af