



Page 2 | NATIONAL
On a highway through hell in Afghanistan

Trump, Biden and the myth of post-election peace in Afghanistan

The next few days would either mark continuity in President Donald Trump's "America First" foreign policy or establish a starting ...

Page 3 | ECONOMY
IMF extends \$320m credit facility to Afghanistan



Page 2 | NATIONAL

Kabul
22 / 6



Herat
24 / 5



Nangarhar
28 / 12



Balkh
23 / 6



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Issue No. 864

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Former Afghan TV Presenter Killed in Kabul Explosion

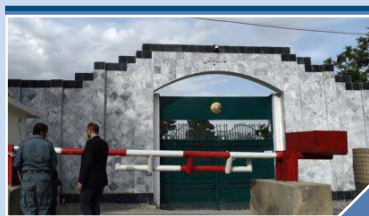
Three people, including former TOLONews presenter Yama Siawash, were killed in an explosion in the Makrorayan-e-Char area in Kabul's PD9 on Saturday morning, his family confirmed.

Kabul police said the explosion happened at around 7:30 am on Saturday morning.

The explosion was a magnetic IED blast that targeted a vehicle carrying the former journalist and two others, according to police.

Police said the explosion targeted a vehicle that belonged to the government-owned Central Bank. All those who lost their lives in the attack, including Siawash, were employees of the Central Bank, police said.

Esmatullah Kohsar, head of media office of the Central Bank, said that Ahmadullah Anas, the operation deputy of the Central Bank, and Amin, ... **P2**



Pakistan visas: Agents pocket \$100,000 daily

First Vice-President Amrullah Saleh on Saturday alleged middlemen from six different circles collected \$100,000 from selling Pakistani visas on a daily basis. Many people in Kabul and Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, have been complaining of being fleeced by visa agents over the years.

Visa applicants have also staged protests in front of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul in past weeks. They claim only those applicants who pay commissions to middlemen are granted visas.

Amrullah Saleh, who is also in charge of Kabul security, said in a Facebook post: "Our plan to streamline the process for Pakistani visa applicant is now complete." We are waiting for Pakistan embassy to provide information how many applications they can process."

The VP wrote: "I know the groups that have turned Pakistani visas-- which used to be free -- into a lucrative business by taking commissions."

On average, Saleh said, an amount of \$100,000 was collected by six groups from ordinary Pakistani visa ... **P3**

Taliban Violence Up by 50% in Last Three Months: U.S. Watchdog



US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), quoted Pentagon, saying an increase in violence by the Taliban is not acceptable and will impact the US-Taliban peace deal. US officials said that increase in violence means a violation of the Doha deal.

The SIGAR new report reveals that

the Afghan government seeks a lasting ceasefire, however, the militants want to impose their own circumstances.

"The Taliban is calibrating its use of violence to harass and undermine [the Afghan government and security forces], but remain at a level it perceives is within the bounds of the [U.S.-Taliban]

agreement," said SIGAR.

SIGAR also said that Taliban attacks have been increased by 50 percent in the past three months of 2020. Previously the Afghan National Security Council (ONSC) has said that the Taliban has conducted an average of 55 attacks per day since the signing of the peace deal with the United States in Doha.

The council said that the Taliban conducted 2,804 attacks from the beginning of March to April 19, adding the group "does not remain committed to the reconciliation process that will help the country to end decades of war."

"When a deal does not have a guarantee, then both sides criticizing each other. It means that the Doha deal is not guaranteed," said Jawed Kohistani, a military analyst.

The SIGAR also said that anti-government groups are responsible for 83 percent of civilians' casualties and the report attributed 38 percent of civilians' casualties to the Taliban.

The United Nation in Afghanistan also attributed most of the civilians' casualties to the anti-government groups.

"If the Taliban and government not announce a ceasefire and continue the violence, it means that they don't have any respect for the Afghans' blood." Said Zabihullah Farhang, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission.

On the other hand, NATO said that they will increase their ... **P3**

Afghan Refugees' Return from Pakistan Witnesses Sharp Decline in Current Year

The UNHCR-sponsored voluntary repatriation of registered Afghan refugees to their country witnessed a sharp decline in the current year as only 1,000 individuals have so far returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

The number of refugees who repatriated from Pakistan in the corresponding period last year was 1,597 individuals. The UN refugee agency has now extended voluntary repatriation process till the end of December following decrease in the number of refugees returning to their country. ... **P2**



Action stressed to avert measles, polio epidemics

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday called for action to avert major measles and polio epidemics.

The call comes as COVID-19 continues to disrupt immunisation services worldwide, leaving millions of vulnerable children at heightened risk of preventable diseases.

A joint statement from the two organisations estimated that \$655 million (\$400 million for polio and \$255 million for measles) were needed to address dangerous immunity gaps in non-Gavi eligible countries and target age groups. The WHO director-general said: "COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on health services and in particular immunisation services, worldwide."

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus commented: "But unlike with COVID, we have the tools and



knowledge to stop diseases such as polio and measles.

"What we need are the resources and commitments to put these tools and knowledge into action. If we do that, children's lives will be saved."

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "We cannot allow the fight against one deadly disease to cause us to lose ground in the fight against other diseases." She stressed addressing the global

COVID-19 pandemic was critical. However, she noted, other deadly diseases also threatened the lives of millions of children in some of the poorest areas of the world.

"That is why today we are urgently calling for global action from country leaders, donors and partners. We need additional financial resources to safely resume vaccination campaigns and prioritise immunisation systems that are critical to ... **P2**

Former Afghan...

a driver of the bank, were also killed in the explosion. Kohsar said he usually went to his office in the same car that was targeted by the explosion. Yama Siawash was born in Kohistan district, Kapisa province, in 1984. He started working at TOLONews in 2010 and left the office in 2015. He anchored the most popular current affairs show in the country, Farakhabar, in which he challenged politicians and government officials. He was a writer and lyricist. He had graduated from the School of Law and Legal Affairs of Noida International University, India. He had newly started working with the Central Bank as a media advisor. The attack comes days after gunmen stormed Kabul University, killed at least 22 people and wounding dozens more. Violence has remained high in the country amidst the ongoing efforts to start peace negotiations with the Taliban in Doha.

China's October...

production capability for its Ceres-1 rocket. Prior to the Galactic Energy launch, Beijing Interstellar Glory Space Technology Ltd., also known as iSpace, successfully launched Hyperbola-1 from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in July 2019, making it the first Chinese private firm to achieve so.

Afghan Refugees'...

The UN agency usually suspends voluntary repatriation process in October every year because of winter in the refugees' home country and restarts the programme in March.

By FAZELMINALLAH QAZIZAI

On a highway through hell in Afghanistan

In a contested region of Afghanistan, the dividing line between the Taliban and government is a thin one. Despite peace talks in Doha, Qatar, now in a second month without any conclusive progress towards a settlement, armed clashes continue in Helmand in the nation's still volatile and hotly contested south. While both sides talk of peace in Doha, on the ground in Helmand both sides are more apparently digging in for more fighting rather than forging reconciliation. Helmand is in many ways the heart of Afghanistan. American and British special forces left the battlefield here in 2014, making the province into a symbol of the US-led military coalition's failure and retreat.

After 19 years of war, Helmand still serves as the Taliban's financial hub and until recently the headquarters of its military commission, which has since shifted to Quetta in southern Pakistan. That influence is felt and seen on the road to Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah, a route that passes the Soviet-built Kandahar-Herat highway. The road, recently traveled by this correspondent, is now marked by desolate checkpoints covered in dust and barbed-wire.

Taliban forces without uniforms sporting mustaches and Kalashnikovs block the passage of vehicles and trucks in spots to ask for "contributions" of 50 or 100 Afghani, or little more than a US\$1. "We are here to provide you security," they say, "your support is welcomed."

Unshaven drivers – that is those less likely to be loyal to the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban – often bypass the blocks by using narrow secondary roads, a trick also used by security forces to avoid roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

In Helmand, with Taliban flags flying over the district of Naher-Seraj bordering on Lashkar Gah, sporting a beard is often enough to arouse government suspicion.

The Taliban previously sent traffic alerts to locals via text message, warning against leaving the main road to avoid IEDs and other mines. The southern region is still one of the most densely mined parts of Afghanistan.

"On one side," explains Haji Rahman, a Lashkar Gah resident in his 30s, "the Taliban warn us of the dangers of driving away from the main road. On the other, government checkpoints block the passage, forcing



us to take the dangerous smaller roads." From every side, Helmand's residents are trapped. Nobody wants to cross the highway due to corrupt checkpoints, but the threat of mines strikes fear into the hearts of all travelers who are forced to move from village to village with the sound of gunfire constant in the air.

Since the end of NATO combat operations in 2014, the Afghan military took nominal control of the area, with all main passages connecting to the capital Lashkar Gah blocked. The Taliban, meanwhile, took over areas around Kreshk, Nahre-Saraj and Nawa districts.

It's an area, residents warn, where fighting could easily resume considering the proximity of Taliban and government forces.

"If the Taliban want to capture the Lashkar Gah," says Sarhadi, "they can do it in a day, but they don't. I believe they plan to remain close to the city and enter only in case the Doha talks collapse."

The Taliban did, however, carry out a violent offensive on October 10 as part of several other military advances launched across the country – a show of strength amid the ongoing talks.

The Taliban's Helmand operations are run by a group of commanders led by Fazeli, the Taliban district governor of Sangin district.

The hardcore Taliban leader is known to be the younger brother of Yasser, the commander who conquered entire areas of Helmand in 2016 and who was later killed by a US drone. The attack remains a sore point among Taliban supporters.

"Yasser was in Baba-Jai area of Lashkar Gah leading an operation when his nephew used the mobile for a call. Shortly after the call ended and they entered in the car, the drone hit the vehicle killing Yasser, his brother and three of his nephews," recalled a close aide of the Taliban commander, who wished to remain anonymous.

Fazeli took over the leadership from his deceased brother soon after he was freed from government custody in early September, a prisoner release that was brokered as part of a Taliban-US agreement in Doha earlier this year.

Fazeli was arrested a few years earlier in the vast wilderness of sand known as the Registan desert while allegedly transporting suicide bombers from Pakistan. A close aide of the ex-commander said he took the name Yasser as a nom de guerre and was responsible for orchestrating the capture of Lashkar Gah's district 4.

This allowed the Taliban to move the battle-line to the Bolan area of the provincial capital's district 3, where the roundabout is named after Ahmad Wali Karzai, the infamous brother of former president Hamid Karzai, is located.

The government's national security service (NDS) office is situated only 1.5 kilometers from there. If the talks in Doha break down, a Taliban drive to take all of Lashkar Gah would likely be on the cards, locals say. In 2016, US airstrikes blocked the Taliban offensive and forced the local commander to stop the advances. "The Taliban planned to ... **P3**

By Hannan Hussain

Trump, Biden and the myth of post-election peace in Afghanistan

The next few days would either mark continuity in President Donald Trump's "America First" foreign policy or establish a starting point for Democrat candidate Joe Biden to rebuild American leadership. But after dozens of swing-state rallies, mixed signals to European allies and fruitless bickering over alleged foreign interference, both candidates appear noticeably silent on Washington's longest military engagement in history and its promise of peace in Afghanistan.

The Biden and Trump's seasonal focus on settling the Afghan conflict represents a compromising contrast to the suffering of Afghan civilians, who are caught in the throes of Taliban and ISIS militant offensives in recent weeks.

Part of this selectivity owes to the long-standing social, military and political challenges to Washington's withdrawal-focused policy imperatives in Afghanistan. For

instance, it continues to view post-conflict political stability in Afghanistan as the result of a scaled-down U.S. counter terrorism presence, even when Taliban fighters exercise disproportionate violence to demand that Washington withdraw its forces in full.

"The sooner the Americans leave Afghanistan the better it is for the Taliban and Kabul administration to succeed at the peace talks," stated Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed in a Bloomberg interview. "The Kabul administration views the presence of U.S. troops as essential for the survival of their power, and their withdrawal from the country would compel them to consider the peace talks as the last resort."

There is a good chance that Biden would refuse to confront the so-called "conditions-based" troop withdrawal formula if he assumes presidency. This likelihood is

driven by his own campaign rhetoric on Afghanistan, the most prominent of which suggests that a convenient trade-off between Afghanistan's nation-building prospects and the success of Washington's notorious counter-terrorism operations is worth it.

For Trump, the limits of post-withdrawal peace are no less predictable. His conjecture about all U.S. troops being home by Christmas adds to a sustained loss of credibility within Kabul's strategic community. Orzala Nemat, a leading civil society activist, considers Trump's self-proclaimed conflict successes in Afghanistan as a direct sign of his administration undercutting "the Afghan people."

A chief impediment to any incoming U.S. administration is to undo the U.S. military's scenario-building on significant violence reduction across Afghanistan. ... **P3**

Three Killed, 15 Wounded in Zabul Car Bomb Blast



A suicide bomber has detonated his explosives-packed vehicle outside the office of provincial council head in Zabul province, killing at least three civilians and wounding 15 more including two guards. Atta Jan Haq Bayan, the head of Zabul provincial council told Reporterly that a 'Folder' type vehicle detonated its explosives at the first gate of his office on Saturday.

He cited that it is not clear whether he was the target or not.

In the meantime, Gul Islam Seyal, the spokesman of Zabul governor told Reporterly that the incident happened near the Haji Atta Jan oil tank at around 11:30am today which 13 civilian were wounded in the incident.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

IMF extends \$320m credit facility to Afghanistan

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a 42-month arrangement for Afghanistan under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) in an amount equivalent to SDR 259.04 million (about US\$ 370 million or 80 percent of Afghanistan's quota) to support the authorities' economic reform program aimed at sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

IMF in a press release said that the program seeks to preserve macroeconomic stability, reverse the fiscal deterioration caused by the pandemic, and protect development and social spending.

According to the press release, the structural reforms under the program will focus on mobilizing domestic revenue, improving the quality of public spending and public financial management, bolstering the financial sector, and strengthening the anti-corruption regime.

"The ECF arrangement will also help cover Afghanistan's external and fiscal



financing needs that emerged since the start of the pandemic."

Following the Board's decision, the equivalent of SDR 80.95 million (about US\$115 million) is available for immediate disbursement; the remaining amount will be phased in over the duration of the Fund-supported program, subject to semi-annual reviews.

Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy

Managing Director and Acting Chair in a statement said, "The COVID-19 pandemic continues to weigh heavily on Afghanistan's economy and livelihoods. The authorities' determined response and expedient donor support have prevented a humanitarian crisis. However, the pandemic has set back progress toward self-reliance."

"The Extended Credit Facility will

support post-pandemic recovery, anchor reform implementation, and catalyze donor financing. The authorities' reform program aims to preserve macro-financial stability and support sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Its success hinges on the steadfast reform implementation, continued donor support, agile response to shocks, and capacity development," he added.

Action stressed...

protect children and avert other epidemics besides COVID-19."

Measles vaccination coverage gaps have been further exacerbated in 2020 by COVID-19. In 2019, measles climbed to the highest number of new infections in more than two decades.

Annual measles mortality data for 2019 to be released next week will show the continued negative toll that sustained outbreaks are having in many countries around the world. At the same time, poliovirus transmission is expected to increase in Pakistan and Afghanistan and in many under-immunised areas of Africa.

Failure to eradicate polio now would lead to global resurgence of the disease, resulting in as many as 200,000 new cases annually, within 10 years.

Afghanistan is in the grip of a measles outbreak, with 10,773 cases reported and 53 cases of polio approximately 2.5 million children are missing polio drops in every round due to access issue.

Taliban Violence...

airstrikes in Afghanistan.

Lt.Gen. John Deedrick, the commander of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) on Friday said that the Taliban violence is too high and that support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) will continue.

"The Taliban violence is too high and we are continuing to support the Afghan security forces and the government, and we will defend the Afghan security forces in accordance with the agreement," said Lt. Gen. Deedrick. "We do conduct strikes and operations in accordance with the US-Taliban agreement, and we will continue to do so." This comes as the US continues to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan

Trump, Biden...

In a widely quoted interview last month, U.S. General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, justified "significant" progress on violence reduction in Afghanistan, when measured against past timelines of "two to ... five years." Milley's reluctance to admit that the same gains are nearly non-existent in recent months, makes it possible for any incoming administration to deflect Washington's military shortcomings on either Taliban's lack of compliance or Kabul's internal political divisions.

Interestingly, Washington continues to prioritize the Afghan government's ceasefire calls, and takes a gamble on the Taliban's ability to disarm, even when recent evidence points to Al Qaeda being "heavily embedded" within Taliban ranks. This speaks to an important dichotomy, because the fear of an enduring Al Qaeda-Taliban connection is exactly

what compelled the Trump administration to condition U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan on the Taliban's severance of ties. This severance commitment enjoys widespread support in Capitol Hill. But statements from the coordinator of the UN's ISIL, Al Qaeda and Taliban Monitoring Team last week confirm that the Taliban is cooperating with Al Qaeda through a "good deal of military ... and training action." The friction is simple: When it comes to promoting plans on counter-terrorism, both Trump and Biden camps are quick to suggest U.S. imperatives against groups such as Al Qaeda. But that very same commitment seems to take a backseat when Washington's own terms of engagement with the Taliban are subject to critical scrutiny. Moreover, Afghanistan's backbone is its 38 million-strong population, much of which stands the most to lose if the on-going intra-Afghan dialogue

loses steam. Women in rural areas - where approximately 76 percent of the country's women live - experience violent fighting between the Taliban, government forces and local militias on a regular basis. The Taliban have successfully intensified attacks against women and children, even as U.S. representatives and Afghan negotiators warn the insurgents of resisting ceasefire calls. As a result, Washington's stock rhetorical campaigning sets a fundamental reality in stone: The leverage to cultivate peace in Afghanistan is no longer with the United States. This limitation also calls into question a broader, contradictory justification touted by Washington's military establishment on Afghanistan: It is trying its best to end the conflict on conditions that suit the Afghan people, and American security interests at large.

On a highway...

capture Lashkar Gah but American interference stopped their plans," said Haji Ustad, a resident of Sangin.

"They bombed the battle line of Sangin district, near the old bazaar, killing two Taliban and wounding others," he explained recalling the airstrikes at the time.

The southern capital, known for its new buildings and American development engineering programs, still carries visible signs of past battles and the human suffering they caused. Locals called the city "Little America," but the bullet holes

marking many of the buildings have canceled out hopes of any "American Dream" or near-term prosperity. Indeed, despite thousands of UK soldiers and US Marines being located there for more than a decade, Helmand remains the Taliban's true military headquarters. "The areas captured by the Taliban in 2016 are in their control," explained Kakar, a former local teacher. "Government offices are on the other side of the bridge." It is only a river that separates government offices, state-protected modern housing

blocks and their nearby markets from residential areas under the Taliban's influence. "The reality is that [the] Taliban control Babajai, Dashti-e-Bolan and a large part of residential areas of [Helmand's] Nawa district," added Sarhadi, speaking of areas around the provincial capital. "But if you look at Facebook, these areas are under government control." And while peace talks in Doha appear to be making little if any progress, the lines in Helmand are still clearly being drawn based on military rather than peace strategies.

Pakistan visas...

applicants on a daily basis. "The plan for handling crowds and controlling disorder among visa applicants in front of the Pakistan embassy will be complete in three days." The VP assured: "We will keep

our promise and would not let people be insulted due to disorder while applying for visas." He claimed progress had been made in investigation of the attacks on the Kabul University and Kawsar Education Centre.

Clues had been found to the perpetrators, he said. Saleh explained he could not share detailed information due to the sensitivity of the issue. Those involved in the attacks would be exposed soon.

Exchange Rates

76.8	\$	76.9
90.1	€	90.2
99.4	£	99.5
477	Rp.	478
20.75	دولار	20.85
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

China's October foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.128 trillion

China's foreign exchange reserves, the world's largest, fell for a second straight month in October to \$3.128 trillion from \$3.143 trillion in September, data released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) showed on Saturday. The figure missed the \$3.150 trillion forecast by a Reuters poll of analysts.

Wang Chunying, chief economist at China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, attributed the decline to the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 crisis and the pandemic-induced fiscal and monetary policy shifts across the world, which resulted in the rise of U.S. dollar index.

China held 62.64 million fine troy ounces of gold at the end of October, unchanged from September.

The value of the gold reserves fell to \$117.89 billion at the end of October from \$118.20 billion at the end of September.

However, Chinese private rocket firm Galactic

Energy successfully launched carrier rocket CERES-1 on Saturday, making it a second Chinese startup to complete an orbital launch.

The rocket blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 3:12 p.m. while sending Apocalypse-11 satellite into the planned orbit.

The CERES-1 rocket is a small solid-propellant launch vehicle developed by Galactic Energy, a young company set up in early 2018.

The Apocalypse-11 satellite will be used to acquire and transmit data in orbit, being one of a series of Chinese satellites dubbed the Apocalypse constellation.

Galactic Energy announced on Tuesday that it had completed its round A financing worth 200 million yuan (\$30.22 million) in September. The company said the fund raised would be put into developing its liquid propellant rocket Pallas-1 and also on ramping up the mass ... **P2**



A look at the world

UN: 4 countries face acute hunger, famine



Burkina Faso, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen are seriously expected to "soon slip into famine" if conditions there undergo any more deterioration in coming months, the World Food Program (WFP) said on Friday. Citing a new report released by the Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the WFP, the latter warned the four countries face acute food insecurity.

"Parts of the population in the four hotspots of highest concern are already experiencing a critical hunger situation, with the report warning that escalations in conflict as well as a further reduction in humanitarian access could lead to a risk of famine," WFP said. The UN agency voiced that the four countries are not the only ones, as "another 16 countries are at high risk of rising levels of acute hunger."

The countries included Venezuela, Haiti, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Central

African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe.

"An acute food insecurity levels are reaching new highs globally, driven by a combination of factors," the WFP said.

"A toxic combination of conflict, economic decline, climate extremes and the COVID-19 pandemic" is driving people further into the emergency phase of food insecurity, the WFP said.

"We are at a catastrophic turning point. Once again, we face the risk of famine in four different parts of the world at the same time. When we declare a famine it means many lives have already been lost. If we wait to find that out for sure, people are already dead," Margot van der Velden, WFP director of emergencies, said.

"The aim of the Hotspots report is to inform urgent action that can be taken now to avoid a major emergency - or series of emergencies - in three to six months from today," WFP said.

Hezbollah decries U.S. sanctions on Lebanese politician



Lebanese group Hezbollah has condemned US sanctions on former Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, which Washington accuses of playing a role in corruption in Lebanon.

In a statement, the Shia group said the US sanctions were "politically-driven" and amounted to a "blatant interference" in Lebanese affairs.

The US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on Bassil, the leader of the Free Patriotic Movement, a Christian party allied with Hezbollah. Washington accuses Bassil of playing a role in corruption Lebanon and eroding the foundation of an effective government in the country.

"This decision aims to force a big Lebanese political team to submit to American conditions and dictates on Lebanon," Hezbollah said.

The group reiterated support to the Free Patriotic Movement against the US sanctions, which Hezbollah termed as "unfair".

Bassil, for his part, said he was not scared by the US sanctions.

"Sanctions have not scared me nor promises tempted me," Bassil said in a Twitter post. "I do not turn against any Lebanese ... and I do not save myself to let Lebanon perish."

Bassil was a foreign minister in former Prime Minister Saad Hariri's government, which resigned last year amid street protests against tax policies. He had previously served as a minister of telecommunications, energy and water. The US sanctions came as Lebanon has been mired by turmoil over the deterioration of the economic conditions and unemployment.

Muslim World League Organization distributed food to 1250 families affected by recent floods in Parwan province

Muslim World League Organization, in coordination with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations and the Ministry of State for Disaster Management and Parwan Province, distributed food to 1,250 families whose homes had been destroyed by recent floods in Charikar, Parwan Province, which distributed to each family (10 kg of flour - 5 kg of rice - 3 kg of beans - 3 kg of sugar - 3 liters of oil).

Gen. Fazluddin Ayar, Governor of Parwan, and Haji Hayatullah Sabawoon, Advisor to the Minister of Refugees and Repatriations, participated in the food distribution process

prepared by the organization and distributed food to needy families. They expressed their gratitude and called on the organization to continue its assistance to the returnees and the displaced.

The governor of Parwan asked the institute to cooperate in the construction of houses destroyed by the floods, as well as in the construction of mosques and winter aids such as camps and foodstuffs, which the officials of the institute said that we will try to In the near future, we will take action in the field of construction of destroyed houses and mosques in Parwan province.

