



Page 2 | NATIONAL
Will America have some presence in Afghanistan?

New Uzbekistan – A New Model of Foreign Policy

On 29 December 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the Oliy Majlis and the people ...

Page 3 | ECONOMY
Nangarhar Customs Officials Arrested on Corruption Charges



Kabul
17 / 0



Herat
22 / 2



Nangarhar
26 / 8



Balkh
23 / 10



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Monday, February 15, 2021

Issue No. 920

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Afghanistan Is Likely to Face New Crisis: Nabil

Rahmatullah Nabil, the former director of the country's National Directorate of Security (NDS), says that these days both the Taliban and the Afghan government are igniting the flames of war and there is no sign of sincerity in the peace process. Nabil in a series of tweets has said that from the very beginning of the intra-Afghan talks, it was clear to the Afghan people that both sides were not honest in the peace talks.

He said that despite the start of intra-Afghan peace talks, one side is still killing and the other side is counting the casualties of the war.

According to the former director of NDS, the main actors in this war of attrition are others, and in the meantime, only the poorest citizens of Afghanistan fall victim to this war.

Nabil had previously said that the Taliban saw the peace talks as a tactic and was essentially seeking a ... **P3**



Ghani: Soviet Lack of Plan, Not Pullout, Led to Civil War

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani says the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was "irresponsible" and that no measures were taken for the future of the country when they left. President Ghani in a video message on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Soviet Red Army's withdrawal from Afghanistan said, "The purpose of the jihad was to create a system after the withdrawal of Soviet troops to strengthen and protect national and military institutions. But because the Soviet troops' withdrawal was not responsible and no measures were taken for the future of the country, Afghanistan went into a civil war.

President stated that the Afghan people must learn from all these experiences which the main reason for defeating the Soviet Red Army was the national unity of the country's forces and the Mojahedin. ... **P2**

Government Distributes Weapons among People to Fight Taliban: Hekmatyar



Leader of the Hezb-e-Islami party Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said on Sunday that if the government failed to abide by conditions laid out in the US-Taliban agreement, signed in February last year, there would be a revolt and the Presidential Palace would fall. Addressing an event to mark the

32nd anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet Union troops from Afghanistan, Hekmatyar said: "The US agreement with the Taliban is a necessity. "The US has no choice but to leave Afghanistan," he said adding that the "US has lost one of its costliest wars (Afghanistan)," Hekmatyar

said. He stated that the Afghan government should end the war and that Hezb-e-Islami is "not willing to end its hostility towards government." Hekmatyar implied he would launch a protest action against the government in a bid to "end the

crisis" and even, "if necessary end the government."

Hekmatyar also stated an interim government in Afghanistan was "a necessity."

"The Afghan government is preparing for a new fighting season and is providing arms to militias," Hekmatyar said adding that "weapons are distributed to those warlords who previously fought against the Taliban."

Also addressing the event was former vice president Mohammad Yunus Qanooni who said the Afghanistan political landscape was currently very "sensitive".

He also said the peace talks in Doha are deadlocked.

According to him, the Taliban leadership believes the crisis can be solved through talks but the "young Taliban members want to continue violence."

President Ashraf Ghani in turn spoke about the Soviet Union occupation and withdrawal of Russian troops 32 years ago.

He said: "The purpose of the jihad of our people was that after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, a system would emerge at the will of the ... **P3**

Islam Qala Port Crisis: Fire Estimated to Cause \$50M in Losses

A massive fire engulfing most of Afghanistan's Islam Qala dry port with Iran is estimated to inflict financial losses worth at least \$50 million, officials confirmed on Sunday.

Jailani Farhad, a spokesman for the provincial governor, told Anadolu Agency that the fire at the Islam Qala Port was finally contained by the Herat fire brigade in cooperation with the Iranian fire brigade.

He said damage assessment and investigations into the reason behind the fire were underway. ... **P2**



Germany's FM Suggests Afghanistan Military Deployment Should be Extended

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has suggested that Berlin's military deployment in Afghanistan should be extended beyond its expiration in March, Germany's dpaInternational reported.

Peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban will not be completed by then, Maas told the Funke Media Group newspapers in comments published Saturday.

"Therefore we must be prepared with a parliamentary mandate for various scenarios," Maas said.

Germany's military can deploy up to 1,300 soldiers as part of its role in the NATO Resolute Support mission, which is mandated to provide consultation, training, and support for domestic security forces in Afghanistan.

The one-year deployment was estimated by the government to cost 427.5 million euros.



The discussion of withdrawing forces was prompted by a deal signed by the Taliban and the United States which foresees all foreign troops pulling out of the country by April. In exchange, the Taliban committed to peace talks with the Kabul government and to significantly reducing violence.

However, violent conflict has continued in Afghanistan despite

peace talks starting in September. Maas said the new US administration under President Joe Biden should make a partnership possible again going forward.

There is an agreement "that we want to take this deployment to an end together as coalition partners in a responsible way that does not endanger the peace process," he said.

Islam Qala...

Speaking to media representatives at the site of the fire, Governor Syed Abdul Waheed Qitali said last night no lives have been lost, but several individuals sustained fire burns, and are under treatment. He thanked the Iranian fire brigade for helping with efforts to control the blaze. Meanwhile, Younus Qazizada, the head of the Herat Chamber of Commerce and Investment, has estimated that at least 500 oil tankers have been completely burnt, while the financial losses inflicted by the fire could be around \$50 million. The massive fire broke out on Saturday afternoon with visuals circulating on social media showing towering flames engulfing a large area in one of the busiest dry ports of land-locked Afghanistan. Afghanistan relies on imported petroleum products from Iran and the Central Asian states that are usually brought to the country from the Islam Qala Port.

Ghani: Soviet...

"Afghanistan now has the opportunity to end the war and achieve peace. May peace be maintained and further strengthened our military and civilian institutions," Ghani said. "Even now, our strategy of unity and integrity will prove that Afghanistan will achieve peace; a lasting peace in which the dignity of every Afghan lie," Ghani added.

By James Stavridis

Will America have some presence in Afghanistan?

Over the four years, I led the Afghan war effort as supreme allied commander at NATO, I was lucky to have four superb generals working for me as the in-country commanders of the International Security Force, Afghanistan.

Generals Stanley McChrystal, Dave Petraeus, John Allen, and Joe Dunford all performed superbly during their one-year assignments in Kabul. All four became household names in the war on global terrorism, and each remains a valued colleague.

I relied on their military advice every day as I reported to the senior civilian leaders of the 28 North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations, from President Barack Obama to German Chancellor Angela Merkel to UK Prime Minister David Cameron and many others.

The generals had many differences in their backgrounds, approaches, personalities, and combat experiences. But they shared one common vision: That our efforts were important to the security of the U.S. and its allies; and that we should therefore remain in Afghanistan until circumstances permitted a "conditions-based" withdrawal.

That phrase, "conditions-based," has been used frequently over the past few years of on-again-off-again negotiations with the Taliban. Led from the U.S. side by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, these talks have gone further than many would have predicted. The U.S. has been able to draw down its forces steadily for most of the past decade. But the Taliban have not kept their side of the bargain, and violence is increasing in much of the country. Should the U.S. continue to draw down its troops?

Let's do the numbers. In my four years in command, we had more than 150,000 troops spread all over the country, representing not only NATO members but an additional 22 countries as well.

In addition to fighting the Taliban, our mission was to train the Afghan security forces — army and police — to take our place on the front lines. We did so successfully, and by the time Obama left office in 2017, U.S. forces had been reduced over 90%, to around 15,000. Peace and stability in Afghanistan

The negotiations have led to an agreement for all U.S. forces to return home by May 1 — but only if conditions permit. It is very clear that conditions do not permit a full withdrawal, and it seems unwise to plan on a final exit any time soon. The Afghan Study Group said as much in its final report issued this week.



"Without understating the challenges ahead, the ongoing Afghan peace negotiation presents a unique opportunity to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan," Dunford told me this week. "We should seek to take advantage of this opportunity, but we should do so in a way that secures our national interests, ends the war, and preserves the gains made by the Afghan people over the past few decades."

In other words, we should seek a meaningful conclusion with the right conditions in place before we depart.

In essence, the findings of the study group reinforce the idea of pushing the Taliban to live up to the commitments they have made to reduce violence and not let progress toward a democratic structure of governance collapse.

President Ashraf Ghani favors keeping a capable U.S. military presence in the country, probably in the range of 5,000 troops. This would permit U.S. forces to continue to provide intelligence and logistic support to the Afghan National Security Forces; ensure protection for the hundreds of U.S. diplomats and aid workers in the country; continue training programs for the ANSF, especially in aviation and special forces; and ensure compliance by the Taliban to the agreements negotiated.

New Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin is a former commander of U.S. Central Command, which includes Afghanistan, so expect a high level of attention and detailed knowledge directed at the force levels in Afghanistan.

Force posture study

The Pentagon is conducting a global "force posture study," meaning analysis of troop levels in all locations with a high density of American forces: Germany, Japan, South Korea, and many other places. Look for it to recommend upping troop strength in Afghanistan to around 5,000, something Central Command has been lobbying for over the past year.

The case for maintaining a small yet strong military presence in Afghanistan is sound, if not popular. The U.S. doesn't want to see the country slip back into the essentially ungoverned state that existed before the 9/11 attacks, conditions that allowed Al Qaeda to take hold so strongly and launch the attacks on U.S. soil. Costs have already been reduced enormously by drawing down 95% of the U.S. forces. There are also about 5,000 non-U.S. NATO troops on the ground, more than America's commitment at this point.

The future of those combined forces will be discussed in depth at this month's meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels. If the U.S. continues to pull forces out, the other NATO members will follow. The right balance would be about 5,000 U.S. troops and 5,000 allied troops — a credible force that would push the Taliban back to the negotiating table.

Think back on the end of the war in Vietnam — helicopters lifting off the roof of the U.S. embassy compound, a chaotic finale of a long, tragic misadventure. We need to avoid a replay of that in Kabul, not just for the security of Afghanistan, but of America as well.

By Akramjon Nematov & Azizjon Karimov

New Uzbekistan – A New Model of Foreign Policy

On 29 December 2020, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan. In his address, the Head of the state-defined further goals and set the most important tasks aimed at ensuring a consistent increase in the level of welfare and wellbeing of the country's population.

In his address, the President mainly focused on the issues of conducting an effective foreign policy capable of providing the necessary conditions for the implementation of a large-scale program of reforming and modernizing all spheres of life of society and the state.

For this purpose, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the need for improving the foreign policy strategy of the country and adopting an updated concept of activities in this area. At the same time, the importance of ensuring the consistency of Uzbekistan's open, proactive, and constructive foreign policy was emphasized.

The demand for conceptualizing

foreign policy is due to the high dynamics of transformation of Uzbekistan, the transition to a new stage in the formation of a democratic rule of law with a developed market economy. Without exaggeration it is worth noting that the foundation of a new era of the Renaissance is being laid in the country, requiring qualitatively new approaches in foreign policy.

In these conditions, the adoption of this Concept of Foreign Policy is intended to accelerate the consistent formation of a favorable external environment for the sustainable internal development of the country, the effective promotion of national interests in the international arena, and the progressive increase of the competitiveness of the country's economy in the world market.

In this regard, today the primary tasks are the consolidation and mobilization of all internal and external resources for the unconditional achievement of national development goals. The formation of a new version of the

foreign policy concept also indicates the country's adherence to the previously chosen foreign policy course, thanks to which Uzbekistan has achieved significant success.

In general, a systematic analysis of the basic principles and characteristic features of the modern foreign policy strategy of Uzbekistan demonstrates a deep thoughtfulness of its foreign policy, which today could serve as an exemplary model for many countries, especially in conditions when international relations are experiencing a crisis of trust, a lack of dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation.

These distinctive features of the new external course of the country, the leading role in the construction of which belongs to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, include the following basic principles.

First, a characteristic feature of the modern foreign policy of Uzbekistan is pragmatism in building relationships with all traditional partners, as well as the countries

near and far abroad.

In this context, Uzbekistan proceeds from the tasks of internal development. Among them are maintaining high growth rates, modernizing and sustainable development of the economy, raising the standard of living of the population, and ensuring full integration into the structure of world economic relations.

Achieving these goals is impossible without accompanying the launched large-scale internal reforms with an appropriate regional strategy, establishing close relations with closest neighbors, coordinating plans within international organizations such as the UN, SCO, CIS, Turkic Council, WTO, EAEU, EBRD, and other structures.

In a word, Uzbekistan's foreign policy interests are based primarily on the priorities of internal development, which means an obvious shift towards the economization of the country's international cooperation and the strengthening of economic pragmatism in external relations.

Thanks to the active use of this approach, the efficiency of work on attracting foreign investment and new technologies, expanding the tourist flow, as well as increasing the export of national products to world

markets has significantly increased.

In particular, one of the drivers of economic growth in recent years has been a sharp increase in investment activity. Over the past 4 years, the average annual investment growth rate was 22 percent. The total volume of attracted foreign investments reached \$26.6 billion, including direct investments of \$17.5 billion. For comparison, such a volume of investments was attracted to the country's economy between 2007 and 2017.

In general, the total volume of investments over the past 4 years has grown by more than 2.1 times, including foreign investments by 2.7 times. The share of investment in GDP in 2019 exceeded 38 percent for the first time, which creates a solid foundation for ensuring economic growth in the coming years.

At the same time, the GDP of Uzbekistan in 2019 grew by 5.6 percent. Despite the difficult conditions that have arisen due to the consequences of the pandemic, the World Bank experts predict the country's GDP growth in 2021 by 4.8 percent, which is one of the best indicators among developing countries.

Thus, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover is growing much ... **P3**

Nangarhar Customs Officials Arrested on Corruption Charges

Head of Nangarhar customs office, Hashmatullah Walizai, and five other officials of his department were arrested on corruption charges, the provincial governor Zia-ul-Haq Amarkhil said on Sunday.

He said the arrested officials were sent to Kabul for further investigation.

He did not provide further details about the arrest of the officials.

On February 6, three members of the Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of Parliament, were sentenced to 10 years and one month in prison each by the primary court of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center on charges of accepting \$40,000 in bribe money from customs officials in Balkh, the



Attorney General's Office (AGO) said. Senators Mohammad Anwar Bashliq, Mohammad Azim Qoyash, and Liyaqatullah Babakarkhil are

accused of asking for \$60,000 in bribe money from customs officials in the Hairatan port in the northern province of Balkh, the AGO said.

They were arrested last year in December while accepting \$40,000 in bribe money, according to the AGO.

Government Distributes...

people and to protect them."

"But because the withdrawal of Soviet troops was not responsible and no measures were taken for the future of the country, Afghanistan was plunged into a multi-dimensional civil war that resulted in the security forces, national institutions, and infrastructure of Afghanistan falling apart," Ghani added.

"The opportunity for an end to war and peace in the country has now been created and we will achieve peace, we will achieve lasting peace," he said.

Sunday's event comes on the heels of confirmation by several sources that the peace talks between the Afghan Republic and the Taliban have stalled in Doha.

Talks that started in September last year were a result of the US-Taliban deal. As per the agreement, the US pledged to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by May this year.

The Taliban in turn pledged to reduce violence and cut all ties with al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. However, the Taliban has been accused of not upholding its commitments and the US, under new President Joe Biden, has stated it is reviewing the deal signed by former Trump administration officials.

In line with this, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Sunday also addressed the event and urged both sides to return to the negotiating table and to reduce "the unjust human, material and moral costs of the war."

The organization also stated there was a need for an immediate ceasefire and the end of the war.

Hekmatyar, who is a veteran Afghan mujahideen leader, last year expressed his willingness to form an alliance with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

In October Hekmatyar stated Hezb-e-Islami was ready for direct talks with the Taliban, as well as for a partnership and cooperation.

"We believe that if these two groups join hands, the crisis in Afghanistan will end soon and no force will be able to stand against it," he said at the time.

New Uzbekistan...

faster than GDP and in 2019 increased by 26.2 percent, amounting to \$42.2 billion. While in just 9 months of 2020, despite the pandemic, the country's foreign trade reached \$27.5 billion.

Uzbekistan's plans to strengthen its role in the establishment of international transport corridors and joint implementation of other infrastructure projects with foreign partners also received a new impetus.

For instance, the wide involvement of Uzbekistan in the implementation of the Trans-Afghan corridor and joining various international transport corridors («North-South», «Trans-Caspian corridor», «China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan») create favorable prerequisites not only for the country's exit from the state of transport isolation but also for increasing its importance as a transport and transit hub and providing access to promising markets.

The implementation of these plans will also contribute to strengthening the role of the country in the process of drawing up a new transport map of the world and strengthening its position in the emerging modern model of global supply chains.

Second, Uzbekistan today constantly promotes the principle of multilateralism in the country's foreign policy. Uzbekistan stands for the development of creative processes of globalization, the establishment of mutually beneficial and equal international cooperation based on dialogue, mutual trust, and respect for each other's interests. This dictates the transboundary nature of modern challenges and threats. Among them, the epidemiological crisis and its socio-economic consequences,

terrorism, cross-border crime, the food crisis, the fight against poverty, and the problem of global climate change remain relevant, which can only be countered by joint efforts.

Recognizing this, Uzbekistan today is active in shaping not only a regional but also a global agenda, building collective mechanisms to counter various challenges and threats that directly affect the security, prosperity, and sustainable development of the international community. Clear evidence of this is the productive participation of the President of Uzbekistan in international platforms. So, during the first outbreak of the pandemic, the President of Uzbekistan, speaking at an emergency meeting of the Turkic Council, was one of the first leaders of the world countries to call on the international community to cohesion in the face of a common threat.

This approach also becomes evident in the increasing role of the country in international lawmaking – in the initiation and adoption of conceptual multilateral documents aimed at resolving urgent problems at the center of the global agenda. In particular, since 2016, at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, four resolutions have been adopted within the framework of the UN, designed to improve the foundations and mechanisms of international cooperation in tourism, regional interaction, interfaith understanding, and sustainable development. Special attention also deserves the important initiatives put forward by the Head of the state during the meeting of the 75th UN General Assembly, which became a solid contribution of the country to the development of mutually beneficial international cooperation.

Among them are proposals for the development of an International Code on voluntary commitments of world states during pandemics and the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on enhancing the role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring human rights.

In this context, the plans to hold several international events in Uzbekistan, voiced by the President of the country during the Address to the Oliy Majlis, are another indicator of strengthening the role of the country in the international arena. One of them is a global forum under the auspices of the United Nations on "Human Rights Education"; an international conference on youth rights; regional conference on freedom of conscience.

Finally, Uzbekistan's strong commitment to multilateralism is evidenced by the President's statement during his Address to the Oliy Majlis about the country's readiness to further develop a constructive cooperation with all international organizations, including the UN.

Third, the country relies on proactivity in foreign policy and distances itself from the role of a passive observer of the ongoing processes in the region and the world. This is confirmed by the fact that by now Uzbekistan has become a member of more than 100 different international organizations and a party to more than 200 international multilateral treaties.

In this context, particular attention is drawn to the activation of Uzbekistan within the framework of the SCO, the adoption of the chairmanship in the CIS, and entry as a permanent member of the Turkic Council. **Continue**

Afghanistan Is...

the monopoly of power over religion and the collapse of Afghan institutions. He stressed at the time that both of these goals were in the interests of Pakistan, not Afghanistan, so the Afghan government should

be prepared for a Plan (B). The former intelligence chief warned that if all Afghans, including the Taliban and the government, do not wake up this time and work for the survival of Afghanistan, the fear of repeating the same scenario of the Soviet Union on

a larger scale would not be far. Mr. Nabil has said the United States will not allow the Islamic Emirate of Taliban to rule Afghanistan, but that Washington cannot guarantee the viability of the shaky republic system.

Exchange Rates

77.2	\$	77.3
92.75	€	92.85
104.2	£	104.3
479	Rp.	480
20.8	₹	20.9
1045	₹	1055

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

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



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,

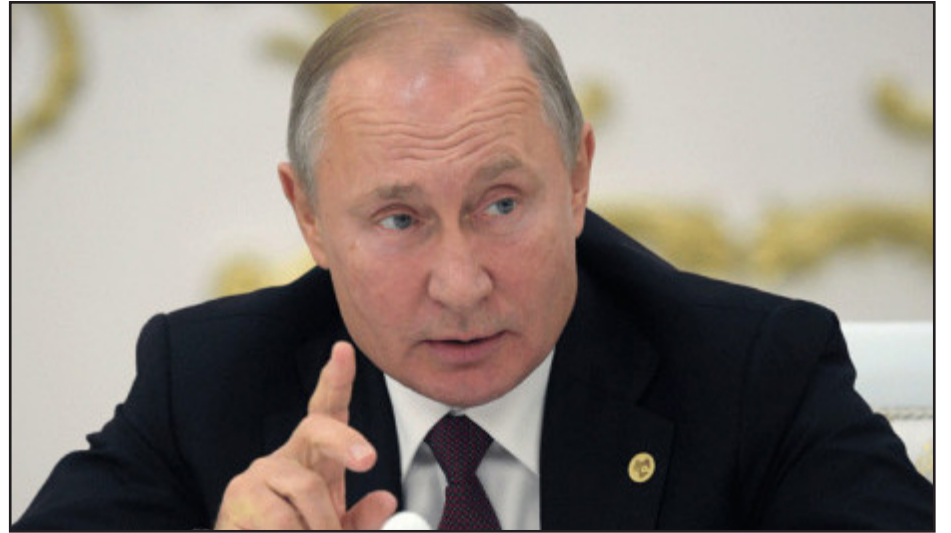
Kabul - Afghanistan

Print: Waygal Printing .Co - +93 - 202512626

Vladimir Putin Accuses the West of Using Navalny to 'contain' Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday accused the West of using jailed opposition figure Alexei Navalny to try to "contain" Russia. "Our opponents or our potential opponents... have always relied on – and used – ambitious, power-hungry people," Putin said in an interview with Russian media conducted on Wednesday but only broadcast on Sunday by public channel Rossiya 24. Putin suggested that the wave of protests recently held across Russia in the wake of Navalny's arrest and imprisonment had also been fed from abroad, against the backdrop of the widespread "exhaustion, frustration and dissatisfaction" arising from the coronavirus pandemic. He said that Russia's "numerous successes"

on a military level, but also in its management of the COVID-19 crisis and the development of the Sputnik V vaccine, were "starting to irritate" Moscow's opponents. "The stronger we become, the stronger this containment policy is," Putin said. Navalny was arrested on his return from Germany, where he had been recovering from a poisoning he claims was carried out by the Kremlin and the Russian security services, FSB. The 44-year-old "anti-corruption campaigner" was subsequently jailed for nearly three years, sparking nationwide protests that saw more than 10,000 people detained and led to allegations of police abuse. The merciless crackdown has been sharply criticized by Europe and the United States.



A look at the world

China Urges U.S. to Return to WHO with 'Serious, Earnest' Manner



China on Sunday said it welcomes the return of the U.S. to the World Health Organization (WHO) and hopes Washington will take a "serious, earnest, transparent and responsible" attitude to shoulder its responsibility and make due contributions to international cooperation on tackling COVID-19.

A recent statement by the U.S. said it is "re-engaging" with the WHO to "hold it to the highest standards" and that all countries participating should follow a "transparent and robust process for preventing

and responding to health emergencies."

"China welcomes the return of the U.S. to the World Health Organization," noted a statement from the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., while pointing out that "the international organization is an authoritative multilateral international organization in the field of health, not a funfair where one can come and go at will."

The statement further noted that the recent actions from the U.S. have severely undermined multilateral institutions

and gravely damaged international cooperation on tackling COVID-19.

It urged "the U.S. to hold itself to the highest standards with a serious, earnest, transparent and responsible attitude," instead of pointing fingers at others.

Such a track record by Washington, according to the statement, will not gain confidence from others who have been faithfully supporting the WHO and at the WHO itself, said the statement.

It called on the U.S. to support the WHO's work with real actions and make due contribution to the global fight against COVID-19.

The U.S. formally notified the WHO last July that it would withdraw from the organization. The exit won't take effect until July this year.

White House says no call planned to Saudi Arabia

US President Joe Biden has no plans to call the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), the White House said.

Biden said he intends to make human rights a key issue in US-Saudi relations, which he pledged during the 2020 election campaign.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday no call was planned to the crown prince.

"Well, obviously there's a review of our policy as it relates to Saudi Arabia. There's not a call planned that I'm aware of," she said in the daily news briefing.

Psaki previously side-stepped a question on whether the administration would impose sanctions on Saudi Arabia for the 2018 murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi operatives in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

Biden earlier this month unveiled a first step in



taking a firmer line with the kingdom, announcing an end to US support for offensive operations by the Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Iranian-aligned Houthi movement in Yemen. Calling Khashoggi's death a "horrific crime" earlier this month, Psaki reiterated the administration's intention to declassify a US intelligence report on the murder, which the CIA assessed was approved – and possibly ordered – by MBS. The prince denied ordering the murder.

Signs are emerging Saudi Arabia is trying to improve its human rights record. Prominent women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul

was released this week from a Saudi prison after nearly three years behind bars.

Rights groups and her family say she was subjected in prison to electric shocks, waterboarding, flogging, and sexual assault – accusations Saudi Arabia denies.

Al-Hathloul, who pushed to end a ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia, was imprisoned in 2018 and sentenced by a court in December to an almost six-year jail term on terrorism-related charges, in a case that drew international condemnation.

Held for 1,001 days, with stints in pre-trial detention and solitary confinement, she was found guilty on charges including agitating for change, pursuing a foreign agenda, and using the internet to harm public order. Although released, al-Hathloul will remain under strict conditions including a five-year travel ban and three years of probation.

tender advertisement

No	Material	Quantity	Mark	Industry	Price per k/g	Total price
1	Good white flour	6.6 ton	Edible	Kazakhstan		
2	Middle Sila	3.3 ton	the middle	Indian		
3	Momin oil	1.98 ton	Momin + Aziz	Emirates		
4	White & small sugar	1.98 ton	small	Indonesian		
5	Bean	1.98 ton	red	Turkmen		
6	Campbell 6 kg 240 × 200	ton 3.96	High Quality	Chinese		
7	Price of supply, distribution and loading and delivery to distribution places in the provinces.					
8	Price per carton, carton with the printing slogan of the office against each carton.					
9	The total price of a carton taking into account all the above costs and tax payment.					

The organization of (MWL) wants to purchase the above-mentioned materials through the relevant companies and institutions that are registered with the relevant government agencies and have the license to operate and validate their financial accounts from the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, companies and institutions that have the above characteristics can participate in the bidding and obtain the contract from this office and submit their rate to this office until 17/02/2021 through the following addresses. Payment of tax to the Ministry of Finance from the above project is the responsibility of the winning company. The photocopy of the license accompanied the rate is required (places of distribution - in Parwan province according to the guidance of the officials of that province).

Address: The office of the mentioned organization, near to the former office of DHL, Public Road, 7th House, Shash Darak. **Phone:** 0093791220232

Email: iiro_kabul_4u@hotmail.com

postbox: (P-B - 3181 Ministry of Communications Kabul Afghanistan)