



Kabul
32° / 18°



Herat
40° / 24°



Nangarhar
41° / 25°



Balkh
42° / 33°



Heart of Asia

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Afghan Women Take up Arms, Warn Taliban of Resistance

Tens of women in western Ghor province on Sunday took up light and heavy weapons to fight the Taliban and support security forces, warning the rebels to reconcile or face their armed resistance. Anesa Ghaur, the Provincial Council member, told the gathering in case the Taliban continued their violence and refused to reconcile, women of Ghor province would stand by security forces and fight the Taliban. "Today, a large number of women in Ghor province have taken up arms to show to the Taliban that women are not what they were years ago, they stand with security forces to defend the homeland and do..."



Afghanistan Unveils New Visa Policy for Pakistan

Afghanistan has unveiled a new visa policy months after Pakistan had announced a new liberal visa policy for Afghan nationals that include long-term visas with multiple entries for businessmen, students, families, tourism and medical visas. "The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has introduced a relaxed visa regime for Pakistani citizens as a goodwill gesture and economic, social, cultural and expansion of relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and to increase the people-to-people contacts," Afghan ambassador Najibullah Alikhil told Daily Times on Friday. The Afghan embassy in Islamabad has issued details of the new policy. Afghan Mission in Pakistan may allow multiple entry visas valid upto one year with duration of 60 days in each stay to ordinary Afghan nationals for visit/tourism. Free three-month medical visa will be issued at Torkham crossing. Afghan embassy in Islamabad may grant upto five years family visit visa with multiple entries with each stay of not more than one year to Pakistani nationals who have spouse of Afghan origin on provision of legal documents that prove their marriages. Afghan embassy in Islamabad may grant a five years business visa with...

More Afghan Forces Flee to Tajikistan as Key Districts Fall to Taliban



Taliban fighters have take over a dozen districts in Afghanistan's southern and northeastern provinces in the last 24 hours, officials said, as the United States continue to withdraw its last remaining troops from the country by the end of August. The fall of Panjwai district on Sunday in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and NATO forces vacated their main Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from

where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies. Panjwai district governor Hasti Mohammad said Afghan forces and the Taliban clashed during the night, resulting in government forces retreating from the area. Kandahar provincial council head Sayed Jan Khakriwal confirmed the fall of Panjwai, but accused government forces of "intentionally withdrawing". Assadullah, a commander of border

police in the area, said it was only the police force that was fighting against the insurgents. "The army and the commandos who have better military equipment are not fighting at all," he said. Panjwai is the fifth district in Kandahar province to fall to the insurgents in recent weeks. Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan with a strict version of Islamic law until being overthrown by a US-led invasion in

2001. Taliban continues to capture territory across Afghanistan's rural areas since early May when the US military began the pullout. In northern side of the country, Taliban captured some 11 districts in the latest fighting, according to TOLO News, the highest number of districts that have fallen to the group in a single day. The Taliban now control roughly a third of all 421 districts and district centres in Afghanistan. The gains in northeastern Badakhshan province in recent days have mostly come to the insurgent movement without a fight, said Mohib ul Rahman, a provincial council member. He blamed Taliban successes on the poor morale of troops who are mostly outnumbered and without resupplies. Bagram airbase attacked Also on Sunday, Bagram district governor Sheren Rofi said that security forces thwarted a Taliban attack on the Bagram airbase. A group of 20 Taliban fighters attacked the local police checkpoint near the airbase, with one policeman and one insurgent killed in the exchange of fire, Rofi added. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack from the Taliban.

Pres Ghani to Visit Tashkent in Mid-July

President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani will travel to Tashkent to attend a High-Level Conference on Central and South Asia: Regional Connections, local Uzbek media reported. The conference will be held on July 15-16 and the situation in Afghanistan will be discussed during this event. According to local Uzbek media, the conference would be held at the initiative of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Miziyoie. This comes as border crossing reopened between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan following security threats and Taliban's attacks on border security check posts. "The brave Afghan security forces would spare no efforts to provide security for the people and prioritize security of the trade ports as well as the traders," a statement from northern Balkh provincial governor office said yesterday, soon after the crossings reopened between the two countries. The Balkh provincial governor office said the crossing was reopened and there were no security threats along the highway.



Turkey, Iran, Pakistan Suspend Consulate Offices in Balkh Province

Due to the increase of violence in Mazar-e Sharif, Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan's consulates have suspended their consulate offices in Mazar city, a local official in Balkh Province confirmed. According to the local officials in Balkh province, these countries have suspended their visa services in Mazar-e-Sharif as the violence have increased in northern Afghanistan and the Taliban have been seizing more territories. Other sources have told media agencies that visas are no longer being issued by these consulates in Balkh province as the diplomats have been relocated to Kabul. On the other hand, the local residents added that Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are also limiting the number of visas



to Afghanistan nationals. Uzbekistan consulate officials confirmed that the issuance of tourist visas to Afghan citizens has been suspended. This comes as the security situation in Afghanistan has worsen as the Taliban have launched offensive in north and they have captured around 100 districts so far. Most Afghan families and citizens are concerned of their future and many thing of getting visas to resettle to a second country if things get worse in the country.

Military Plane...

"We are currently attending to the survivors who were immediately brought to the 11th Infantry Division station hospital in Busbus, Jolo, Sulu," he said. The island is about 950 km (600 miles) south of the capital, Manila. The Lockheed C-130H Hercules aircraft, registration 5125, had only arrived in the Philippines recently. It was one of two aircraft granted by the U.S. government through the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, according to a government website announcement in January. It quoted an air force spokesman as saying the aircraft would provide enhanced capability for heavy airlift missions. The website C-130.net said the plane that crashed had first flown in 1988. The model is a workhorse for armed forces around the world. The Philippines armed forces have had a patchy air safety record. Last month a Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a training mission, killing six people. A Philippines Air Force C-130 crash in 1993 killed 30 people. A 2008 crash by the civilian variant of the Lockheed plane flown by the Philippines Air Force killed 11 people, according to the Aviation Safety Network. In the country's worst plane crash, an Air Philippines Boeing 737 crashed in 2000, killing 131 people.

By: CGTN Insight

China's Stability is a Force for Global Good

China is celebrating the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (July 1, 1921). Ever since 1949, the CPC has been the ruling party of China and, with its almost 100 million members, is the largest political party in history.

China has transformed itself into the second largest economy (measured by official exchange rate) and the largest economy (measured by purchasing power parity). It has become the biggest producer of agricultural products, manufacturing, iron and steel, cement, concrete, chemical fiber, automobiles, bicycles, desktop computers and mobile phones, as well as more than 200 major industrial items.

Every year, China, which has the world's largest population, graduates more college students than any other country. It has rolled out the longest high-speed railway network and has pushed the urbanization rate close to 70 percent. Life expectancy, literacy, and the average height of the population are all on the rise. At the end of 2020, China declared that extreme poverty had been eliminated. It has committed to achieving peak carbon emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2060. The country is the largest contributor to United Nations peacekeeping forces.

China, the CPC, and the Chinese people as a whole have ample reasons and justification to take great pride in the transformation and modernization of China.

In historical terms, China's great achievements are even more extraordinary in the sense that all these have been achieved peacefully through the hard work and sacrifices of the Chinese people, rather



than through wars of aggression, occupation of other countries, suppression of other people's rights, enslaving other nations, or plundering other countries resources.

Compared with the rise of the Spanish Empire, the Portuguese Empire, the British Empire, and the extermination of the native populations in America and the enslaving of Blacks for hundreds of years in the United States, and the rise of the Axis powers before and during the Second World War, China's ascent has been peaceful, creating huge growth opportunities for humanity as a whole.

Ever since 1978 when China started opening to the outside world, maintaining domestic stability, keeping peace abroad, and promoting development have always been the top priorities for the nation, the CPC as its leading force, and for the Chinese people as a whole. As a matter of fact, stability, peace and development have been

intertwined into a coherent and inseparable paradigm. Without domestic stability, development is out of the question.

No one wants to invest in a country in turmoil and chaos. Wars and conflict eat away at a country's wealth, generating no benefits for the people at large. Without development and without constantly improving livelihoods, stability may give way to chaos, anarchy and revolution.

China's ancient philosophy is simple and elegant: Don't do unto others what you don't want others to do unto you. Maintain stability, sometimes at any cost; advocate peace and prevent war, sometimes at any cost; and always promote growth and development for the overall benefit of all the people in China. If the real criterion for good governance and good government is of the people, for the people, and by the people, China should be ranked at the top for the tremendous transformation it has undergone and the spectacular improvement of

the living standards of the Chinese people.

On top of that, China has now become a major champion of peace in the world and the pursuit of domestic stability for the sake of development. No country in the world has a monopoly on truth or has any right to impose its values on other countries. The better way is to respect each other and promote greater understanding and promote growth and development for the benefit of all, rather than engaging in plunder and exploitation of other countries.

China has been unique in identifying an extraordinary growth path for itself and has achieved stellar successes so far. Going forward, it will have greater confidence in doing the right things in continuing to promote stability, peace and development for the benefit of all humanity. Victor Gao is a chair professor at Soochow University and vice president of the Center for China and Globalization.

By: Bobby Naderi

The Air War in Afghanistan: Off Target, Twisted, Illegal

According to the Pentagon officials, the U.S. is keeping the option open to bomb Afghanistan, even though the bulk of its forces are expected to be out of the war-torn country. To the sound of trumpets, the ability to bomb Afghanistan from outside its borders, dubbed "over the horizon capability" by the chain of command, and perhaps with President Joe Biden's blessing, is something the military bureaucrats want to maintain beyond September 11.

As the Pentagon plans to bellow for more blood in the name of national security and honor, a critical question remains unanswered: Who exactly is going to die in its new air bombardments in Afghanistan? Pentagon's commanders provide virtually no information about likely civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

They deny on-the-ground reports that innocent people will be killed and wounded in air attacks. However, their "official" version of future events is contradicted by mounting reports from the United Nations (UN), rights groups and NGOs.

Given the level of existing evidence, they warn that new bombing of alleged terrorist positions in Afghanistan will take many more civilian lives. The American military officials will deny the civilian deaths but will present no evidence backing their claims. They will simply claim that civilians are spared. Again, they will offer no evidence, including for reimbursing the victims and survivors - withholding the details that are crucial to determining the legality of new bombing.

The sickening cult of air war At times the Pentagon's officials admit it to the public because they know no one on the Capitol Hill or at the UN is going to hold them to account. We all know how UN investigators have on numerous occasions urged the U.S. to probe its deadly Afghanistan airstrikes. But they are not a tribunal and have no powers to take their investigations further.

Domestic law is also clear. Victims must be helped to obtain justice, which should be a central component of any negotiated settlement completing the troop withdrawal. After all, this is the same America that has no idea how many civilians it has killed and wounded in Afghanistan. More than 20 years after the U.S. launched its so-called war on terror, many

people's lives have been turned upside down. An untold number of civilians have also been killed and wounded.

The Pentagon can insist it will take great care in preparing for and carrying out military strikes this time, but that's not what the long-suffering people of Afghanistan and the international community would like to witness after the troop withdrawal. The unfortunate deaths caused by air strikes is still a fact that weighs heavily on Afghans. If peace and security can only come through bombing civilian objects in a new off target, indiscriminate and outright illegal air war, then the people of Afghanistan don't want it. The twisted logic of post-military-adieu bombing The U.S. has no right to keep the option of bombing open in Afghanistan. It cannot grant an ever-growing level of autonomy to the Pentagon's bureaucrats. It will have a broad impact on the way the air war will be fought.

Increased autonomy after troop withdrawal means less and less obstacles to the endless war, and hence more and more airstrikes targeting civilian objects. The U.S. seems to believe that new bombing is needed to improve security, but it will simply worsen the situation on the ground.

Altogether, it calls into question the lack of oversight of any new war policy, as well as the legality of drone wars in Afghanistan. Domestic oversight is a joke. The Pentagon will never establish a clear policy for attacks or precise avenues for accountability by the U.S. government. Whatever comes out of this new policy won't be binding. The U.S. won't hang onto its constitution and push to have new cases of bombing targeting civilians in Afghanistan heard at any court on the Capitol Hill. It's a black farce with tragic and deadly consequences. Washington has no strategy to demobilize... **P3**

Re-Connect With China to Revive Afghanistan's Economy

Perhaps one of the misfortunes of Afghanistan is that it does not have a passage to China. If it had one, the political and military situations in Afghanistan would have been so much different today. And the left-wing Afghan movement, leaning to China, would not have disappeared in the 1980s. China and Afghanistan share a 46-mile border with a Wakhjir Pass (in China referred to South Wakhjir Pass) as the only possibly navigable Pass. At an altitude of 5,000 meters and with a 3.5 hours' time difference, this is the sharpest official change of clocks of any international border (Insider). However, the Wakhjir Pass is not an official crossing point. There is no road access reaching the Pass on the Afghan side, although the Pass was part of the Silk Road. Few signs are floating up as Beijing seems interested in discussing China's direct connection to Afghanistan through Wakhan and Pamir, at least in theory and discourse for now. According to 8AM-Daily, the Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, Wang Yu, said at a conference on May 9, 2021, that the country was consulting with the Afghan government on the "Belt and Road Initiative" to revive part of the Silk Road in Afghanistan through Wakhan Corridor. Citing this positive news, the Afghan government immediately set in concrete to build a 50 km high way in rough terrain to access China by road for the first time in

history. The project will cost \$5 million and will take a year and a half to complete. The initial phase will include graveling and adding asphalt before connecting it with a road already in use in China. This highway starts from the Badakhshan Province extends to the end of the Wakhan district, which almost reaches the Chinese border. It is clear that the project looks far-sighted, but the nature of the plan to re-connect Afghanistan to China is paramount and exciting to all Afghans. Afghanistan was not initially part of the Belt and Road Initiative due to security concerns. Nonetheless, that policy soon changed as Beijing decided to connect Afghanistan into its broader plans for the region through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to former minister M.H. Qayoumi, the movement of goods, energy, and data are three areas in which Afghanistan has a unique advantage under the BRI reflected in the 2016 memorandum of understanding both countries signed. Thus far, Afghanistan and China have undertaken a few projects, such as the Digital Silk Road, the Sino-Afghanistan Special Railway Transportation Project, the Five Nations Railway Project, and a Kabul-Urumqi air corridor. Afghanistan's direct access to China, in addition to facilitating trade and connecting Chinese manufacturers directly to the Afghan market, increases the importance of Kabul's relationship



with Beijing, and security in Afghanistan becomes a priority. According to WITS, China is the second-largest trading partner for Afghanistan (\$1.19 billion). The assumption is that the trade volume will possibly increase threefold (\$3.5 billion) annually if there is direct access to China. Afghanistan's natural resources such as Lithium, Iron, Copper, and Cobalt are estimated to have a value of \$3 trillion. These natural resources can turn into a great source of FDI and significantly contribute as a great source of raw material for all BRI members and immediately to Chinese factories if there is direct access. Afghanistan is geopolitically located between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East and can link all these regions. It is particularly

true for the transit of energy-rich Central Asia to energy-poor South Asia. In addition, Afghanistan itself has the potential of producing up to 23,000 megawatts of hydropower for exports. There is an Afghan Pine-nuts exports success story and others that could come in from this sector. If China leads the world in infrastructure development, accessing the Wakhjir Pass shall not remain difficult for both states as long as distance matters in trade and transit. The growing security concerns triggered by the U.S.-NATO troop's withdrawal from Afghanistan are understandable. In this context playing a more active role in Afghanistan's development seems challenging, but opening a two-way crossing for goods shall always remain as inception.

Afghan Women...

not let the Afghan flag fall, these women support the system and achievements of Afghan women" Najeba, another woman holding an AK47, said: "We have experience from the dark era of Taliban and once again we will not allow women to stay at their homes and not be able to go out of their homes. Our country is progressing and Afghan women and girls have huge achievements worldwide and they should not be vanished instead we could play our role in the defence of our people." Women who lost their husbands in fighting in the past few years participated in these gatherings. Governor Abdul Zahir Faizzada who was present in the gathering said: "This is our message to our security forces who are defending their nation that their sisters stand by them. They consider themselves responsible and today they even said that they don't want the dark history of Taliban's rule to return." The Taliban, however, had warned that all local uprising would be suppressed soon.

Afghanistan...

multiple entries to genuine Pakistani businessmen whose investment is not less than 20 afghanis. A three-year business visa with multiple entries to genuine Afghan businessmen whose investment is not less than 20 million afghanis. Afghan missions in Pakistan may grant one-year multiple visas to Pakistani nationals on the recommendation letter by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and trade counselors at the Afghan embassy and consulates. Businessmen will pay 150 dollars for a one-year visa, 200 dollars for two-year visa and 300 dollars for three-year visa. Afghan mission may grant entry study visas to Pakistanis for the duration of the study program with multiple entries at university level following documents on issuance of

authorization. The Afghan ambassador said the country's embassy and consulates are dealing with the growing number of Pakistani nationals who seek visa to go abroad visa Afghanistan in the wake of flight ban from Pakistan. "In the past the embassy would issue nearly 50 visas to Pakistanis daily but now the embassy sometimes issues over 1000 visas. In other news, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to determinedly continue high-level exchanges and enhance mutual cooperation and understanding in diverse fields. The two countries reached an understanding during the inaugural round of Pakistan-Uzbekistan Bilateral Political Consultations held between the two sides. They expressed satisfaction on the positive momentum in high-level visits and interactions including

the visit of the Uzbek foreign minister to Pakistan and virtual summit between Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The two sides discussed progress on Trans-Afghan railway project between Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Body sides underlined the convergence of views in ensuring security, stability and lasting peace in Afghanistan through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Afghanistan (CBA) has fired a number of its employees, for failing to include Pashto language in the Geneva Conference Commitments, but it did not disclose the number of dismissed employees. The CBA added that the dismissal was as lesson to other employees to avoid making such a mistake.

The Air...

the Taliban or neutralize their grandiose ambitions. It has instead allowed the cult of air war to level the playing field unilaterally "if Kabul or another major city is in danger of falling to the Taliban." It is an innovative profit center for the bankrupt American arms

industry to provide weapons, the Pentagon to destroy the weapons, and its accountants to order even more weapons. If the pattern of the new air war seems too familiar under the Biden administration, it is. It has become execrably clear that the brutality of America's endless war is the product of a

culture that glorifies violence and unaccountability, the product of a militarized-culture that wants to spend more and more on the "over the horizon capability" of moving battle lines back and forward. It's the same twisted logic that has no intention of ending the endless war in Afghanistan after September 11.

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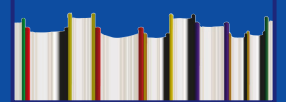
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Heart of Asia

Chief Editor: M. Hamid Hamdard

Reporters: Safiullah Nasary, Shafiq Amirzay,

Jawad Temori & Hameedullah Hamidi

Design By: Haseeb Ur Rahman Sahel

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



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

Al-Kadhimi: We Asked the US, Iran to Keep Iraq Away from Their Conflict

Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi said his government requested from the U.S. and Iran to keep Iraq away from their conflict. Al-Kadhimi said in an interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, "we avoided the abyss toward which Iraq was heading as a result of the fall of 2019 events. The challenges we face remain strong." He pointed out that ISIS still poses a threat, and is trying to gather its ranks, stressing that Iraqi forces have dealt with the terrorists and killed many of their leaders. He continued, "Our intelligence cooperation with our allies has become more effective, and we have asked Italy to remain in the front line in training our forces", noting, "Iraq is ready to enhance military cooperation with Italy, in the field of training and development of work in

the fight against corruption, money laundering, organized crime, and mafias." "We asked the Americans and Iranians to refrain from settling their accounts in Iraq. For years, we have been an arena for conflict," stressing, "We must choose the path of political dialogue to resolve differences." Al-Kadhimi also revealed that Iraq is in contact with the Biden administration, "I believe that we will be able to reach a stage of regional dialogue." He concluded, "We want Iraq to be one of the countries that manage crises successfully, and not one of those that cause or are affected by them. The agreement between Iran and the U.S. is very important", pointing out, "The success of the Vienna negotiations will positively affect the region and serve the stability of Iraq."



A look at the world

American Logistics Convoy Targeted in Iraqi Taji

A logistics convoy belonging to the US-led coalition in Iraq was targeted with a roadside bomb in Baghdad province on Sunday, Iraqi local sources said. Local Iraqi sources said on Sunday that a logistics convoy carrying equipment for US-led coalition forces was targeted by a roadside bomb in Baghdad province this afternoon. The convoy was targeted in Taji in the north of Baghdad Province. There were no immediate reports of casualties. No group has claimed responsibility for today's attack yet. Meanwhile, Local Iraqi



media have reported a second attack on the US troops in the country after this morning's attack on another US logistics convoy in Hilla. After it was reported on Friday morning that a US logistics convoy in Hilla was targeted, there are now reports coming out of Iraq saying that another US military convoy has been targeted but this time in Salahadding Province in the east of the country in the north of the capital Baghdad. The Telegram channel news "Sabereen" said on Friday afternoon that a convoy of US occupying troops was targeted in the Sharqat area of Saladin Province located in the north of Baghdad with Tikrit as capital. Sabereen News added a group calling "Saraya Thawra al-Ashrin al-Thaniyya" claimed responsibility for the attack and said it had targeted the US logistics convoy with EFP bombs. The group also announced the release of a video of the attack in the coming hours. The attack comes few hours after another US military logistics convoy was targeted this morning (Friday) in the city of Hilla, but no group has claimed responsibility for that attack yet.

Libyan Leader Says Nation Cannot Be Subjected to Authority of Warring Parties with Support from Abroad



Libya's prime minister said Saturday that his country does not accept bowing to the authority of warring parties with help and funding they receive from overseas. "We cannot be under the hegemony of any party that is supported and financed from abroad, that wages war in Libya and is at war with us," Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh said as he answered questions from Libyans during a live broadcast. He said the government's goal is to ensure peace in Libya, avoid war and intervention. Dbeibeh underlined that the Libyan land belongs to Libyans and no army, armed or unarmed group can be monopolized in the country. "At the second Berlin Conference, we regained the prestige of the Libyan state and presented the initiative. In the past years, the Libya file was completely in the hands of the outside world. Any solution offered for Libya must first go through Libya," he said. Dbeibeh also said that parliament is expected to approve the 2021 general budget draft on Monday. As part of UN-led dialogues, meetings of the 5+5 Joint Military Committee were held Oct. 23, 2020, in Geneva. As a result of the meetings, a permanent cease-fire agreement was signed between the legitimate Libyan government and delegations affiliated with warlord Gen. Khalifa Haftar. Within the scope of the political process that started after a cease-fire agreement, the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum decided in November last year that elections will be held in December 2021. Libyans hope the new unity government will end years of civil war that have engulfed the country since the ouster and killing of strongman Muammar al-Qaddafi in 2011.

Military Plane Carrying 92 Crashes in Philippines

At least 17 people were killed when a Philippines Air Force plane carrying troops crashed on landing in the south of the country and broke up in flames on Sunday, the country's worst military air disaster in nearly 30 years. The Lockheed C-130 transport aircraft crashed at Patikul in Sulu province, in the far south of the archipelago nation where the army has been fighting a long war against Islamist militants from the Abu Sayyaf and other factions. Seventeen bodies had been recovered



and 40 injured had been rescued so far, Defence Minister Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement. Most of the 92 people aboard were troops flying from Laguindingan Airport, some 460 km (290 miles) to the northeast. "Rescue and recovery is ongoing," Lorenzana said. Pictures from the scene showed flames and smoke pouring from wreckage strewn among trees as men in combat uniform milled around. A large column of black smoke rose from the coconut palms into the blue sky. Military chief Cirilito Sobejana said the plane had "missed the runway trying to regain power." A military spokesman, Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said there was no indication of any attack on the plane, but that a crash investigation had not begun and efforts were focussed on rescue and treatment. Sobejana said in a message to Reuters that the plane had crashed a few kilometers (miles) from Jolo airport at 11:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) and had been carrying troops... **P2**



Shigal

English Academy

AMERICAN ENGLISH FILE



Western Street of
Kabul University Close to
Dehbori Park.



+93 (0) 789 98 9696



shigal.edu@gmail.com



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