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Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Issue No. 986

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Afghanistan on Agenda in Indian FM's Upcoming Visit to Moscow

Afghanistan's situation will be on the agenda in Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Russia later this week. Afghanistan will also be on the top of the agenda at several upcoming high-level meetings, including the annual India-Russia Summit, Hindustan Times reported. The report quotes people familiar with the matter as saying that Russia sees India as an important player for formulating a coordinated response to the situation in Afghanistan. According to the report, there hasn't been any formal announcement about Jaishankar's visit to Russia, but he is expected to be in Moscow... **P3**



Turkish, US Defense Ministers to Discuss Karzai Intl Airport Plan on Wednesday

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said he would discuss with his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin on Wednesday a plan for Turkey to operate and guard Hamid Karzai airport after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, adding there was no final decision yet. Ankara has offered to run and guard the airport after NATO's withdrawal, and has been in talks with allies, namely the United States, on financial, political and logistical support, Reuters reported. Security of the airport is key for the operations of diplomatic missions in Afghanistan after the withdrawal. Speaking to a group of reporters after a cabinet meeting on Monday, Akar said talks on the details of the mission were still underway, and that the airport must be operational so the Afghan government is not isolated from the world following the pullout. "From making certain decisions at the... **P3**

Taliban Plan to Present Peace Proposal to Afghan Government



The Taliban plan to present a written peace proposal to the Afghan government side as soon as next month, a spokesman for the Islamist insurgents said even as they make major territorial gains following the withdrawal of foreign forces. Hundreds of Afghan security force members have fled into neighboring Tajikistan in the

face of Taliban advances since the United States vacated its main Afghan base Bagram in northern Kabul - the centerpiece of US and NATO might for almost two decades in the country - as foreign forces leave the country ahead of US President Joe Biden's September 11 deadline. While the transfer of Bagram Air Base to the Afghan army

added momentum to a Taliban drive to seize control over new districts, Taliban leaders renewed the long-stalled talks with Afghan government envoys in Qatar's capital Doha last week. "The peace talks and process will be accelerated in the coming days ... and they are expected to enter an important stage, naturally it will be about

peace plans," Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters on Monday. "Possibly it will take a month to reach that stage when both sides will share their written peace plan," he said, adding that the latest round of talks were at a critical juncture. "Although we [the Taliban] have the upper hand on the battlefield, we are very serious about talks and dialogue." The upsurge in fighting and the flight of thousands of members of the tattered Afghan security forces have raised grave doubt about the US-backed peace negotiations, which began last year under the then-President Donald Trump's administration. Responding to a request for comment on the Taliban representative's remarks, a spokesperson for the US State Department said a negotiated settlement was the only way to end 40 years of war in Afghanistan. "We urge the sides to engage in serious negotiations to determine a political roadmap for Afghanistan's future that leads to a just and durable settlement," the official said. "The world will not accept the imposition by force of a government in Afghanistan," the official... **P3**

Rashid Khan Selected National T20I Captain

All-rounder Rashid Khan has been appointed the T20I Team Captain for Afghanistan. Meanwhile Najibullah Zadran has been appointed the National Team's vice-captain for the format. Rashid, one of the well-known global faces of the game, was selected by senior ACB leadership led by ACB Chairman Farhan Yousefzai, for the role considering his experience, brilliant performance as well as leadership skills with the National team over the years. Afghanistan is placed in Group B for the T20 World Cup 2021 alongside England, India and South Africa while the remaining two teams will be chosen from the Qualifiers. The 2021 edition of the tournament is scheduled to be played this October in UAE and Oman.



FM Atmar Meets With Regional Partners

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Hanif Atmar met on Tuesday morning in Kabul with Afghanistan's major regional partners to discuss the escalation of violence by the Taliban, the destruction of public property and infrastructure, the issue of IDPs and a new chapter in Afghanistan's relations with the world. Pointing to the Taliban's non-compliance with the commitments of the Doha Peace Accord signed with the US last year and UN Resolution 2513, Atmar called on Afghanistan's regional partners to put pressure on the Taliban to renounce violence and killings and return to meaningful peace talks. According to a statement, Atmar spoke of the Taliban not cutting ties with foreign fighters and members of international terrorist groups, calling it a potential threat to regional stability and an opportunity to strengthen the



foundations of terrorist networks. Atmar added that given this great threat, a joint struggle and practical cooperation between countries against terrorist groups is crucial. The Foreign Minister also discussed the new chapter in Afghanistan's relations with the world, emphasizing the continued

support of international partners for the people and government of Afghanistan and the preservation of the achievements of the last two decades, especially women's, girls' and children's rights, freedom of expression and minority rights, the statement read.

Airplane...

ministry sources, news agencies reported that a search for the plane was underway with a radius of 15-25 kilometers around the airport, with a focus on the Okhotsk Sea. "There is objective evidence that the plane crashed and fell into the sea," a source told Tass. Helicopters and an Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft were searching the area as of 9:00 pm local time (9:00 a.m. GMT), news agencies reported. A source in the Pacific Fleet Air Force was cited by news agency RIA Novosti as saying that the search was hindered by "difficult" weather conditions. The Kamchatka government said the peninsula has five An-26 planes servicing remote areas. The regional transport ministry and the local aviation company said the plane – built in 1982 – was in good condition and had passed safety checks. The weather in the area was cloudy at the time, Interfax news agency said, quoting the local meteorology center. Russia, once notorious for plane accidents, has improved its air traffic safety record in recent years. But poor aircraft maintenance and lax safety standards still persist, and the country has seen several deadly air accidents in recent years. The last major air accident took place in May 2019, when a Sukhoi Superjet belonging to the flag carrier Aeroflot crash-landed and caught fire on the runway of a Moscow airport, killing 41 people. In February 2018, a Saratov Airlines An-148 aircraft crashed near Moscow shortly after takeoff, killing all 71 people on board. An investigation later concluded that the accident was caused by human error.

By: Charu Sudan Kasturi

What About Afghanistan's Democracy, Joe?

After winning the presidency, Biden boldly announced to the world that after four years of ceding global influence under Trump, "America is back." In Kabul, that declaration rings hollow. There, America is turning its back on democracy. It hasn't been that long since American democracy was shaken by the assault on the Capitol. The attack by supporters of former President Donald Trump was condemned worldwide, even as threats from far-right groups continued to keep the U.S. on edge. Now imagine if, instead of those unequivocal condemnations, world leaders had advised the newly elected President Joe Biden to share power with extremist militias and their QAnon-peddling political nominees in the name of avoiding further violence. Is "peace" at gunpoint acceptable? What would it mean for democracy? Those are questions worth reflecting upon as America asks Afghanistan to make such a compromise. In a terse new letter that's been leaked to the press, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has urged Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to work toward a power-sharing deal between his democratically elected government and the Taliban. The same Taliban that the U.S. has fought for two decades and failed to defeat. The same Taliban that Blinken warns — in the same letter — is gaining territory. The same Taliban that sheltered Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks. A Taliban that carries the potential to be infinitely more destructive than anything we saw at the Capitol. A Taliban that has been in power once before and has shown the world that it doesn't believe in democracy or the rights of women and minorities. To be clear, Biden is only carrying forward the road map for Afghanistan that Trump had laid out. Amid all

their other differences, Biden and Trump have both been keen to pull U.S. troops out of what has been America's longest-ever war. In his letter to Ghani, Blinken said the U.S. might withdraw all troops by May 1. And indeed, it can be no one's case that America ought to stay in Afghanistan endlessly. The U.S. has lost more than 4,000 of its soldiers and civilian contractors in the war, which has cost in excess of \$2 trillion. The future of Afghanistan must be settled and secured, ultimately, by Afghans. But it's worth asking what America has achieved through the Afghan war, and how it can best secure those gains. In his letter to Ghani, Blinken has outlined plans to kick-start United Nations-led talks with Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Iran to formulate a joint strategy for security in Afghanistan. "It is my belief that these countries share an abiding common interest in a stable Afghanistan and must work together if we are to succeed," he wrote. Each of these countries already has a deep presence in Afghanistan, and the U.S. has been coordinating its approach with them for some years now. Yet, by openly tying the success of its Afghan campaign to negotiations with five other nations, Biden's team is publicly ceding leverage to capitals that don't entirely share Washington's broad hopes for the future of Afghanistan. That's particularly important at a time when America and Russia have already switched places when it comes to their appetites for overseas military excursions. Since the late 1980s, Moscow viewed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a costly mistake that hastened the collapse of the USSR. But under President Vladimir Putin in recent years, the Russian state has militarily intervened in Syria and Ukraine. And



in Afghanistan, Putin has been willing to work with the Taliban to weaken America's presence there, including through bounties on U.S. soldiers. Meanwhile, there's bipartisan support in the U.S. today for ending the war. Listening and honoring that domestic opinion is important for any administration in Washington. But doing so the way the Biden team has proposed could prove costly. Any power-sharing deal between the Ghani government and the Taliban would be tantamount to giving the ultraconservative Islamist group political control over Afghanistan, especially once the U.S. pulls out its troops. The Taliban will see the U.S. advocacy for their presence in government, without having won any election, as evidence that they can rule without democratic legitimacy. Already, the Taliban is making quick territorial advances in Afghanistan, by Blinken's own account. "Even with the continuation of financial assistance from the United States to your forces after an American military withdrawal, I am concerned that the security situation will worsen and that the Taliban could make rapid territorial gains," he wrote. Would the

collapse of Afghanistan's fledgling democracy, built through blood and sacrifice — mostly of Afghans — over the past two decades, be in America's interests? Would greater Russian and Chinese influence in that country serve America well? Yes, America must plot its exit from Afghanistan. But to do so based on the approach Biden's team has outlined would once again underscore the hypocrisy of Washington's proclaimed support for democracy overseas and would embolden militias elsewhere that are locked in conflict with America. The message to them? Grind down America's patience enough and the U.S. won't just back off — it'll facilitate their rise to power. If the U.S. withdraws on these terms, it'll be an exit even more humiliating than the Soviets' three decades ago. At least Moscow didn't try to convince the regime it supported in Kabul to share power with the mujahedeen. After winning the presidency, Biden boldly announced to the world that after four years of ceding global influence under Trump, "America is back." In Kabul, that declaration rings hollow. There, America is turning its back on democracy.

By: the Times of India

Will Afghanistan's Ancient Historical Sites Again Face Taliban Threats?

While there is widespread speculation about what awaits Afghanistan after the departure of the US-led foreign troops in the country, historians and heritage experts globally, are keeping their fingers crossed for the fate of the cultural legacy in the embattled nation. The concern is justified since Afghanistan's rich historical and cultural heritage dates back to several centuries. From being part of Indus Valley Civilization to being invaded by Alexander, several empires including Greco-Bactrians, Kushans, Saffarids, Ghaznavids, Timurids and Mughals among others have started from this region. According to an article in the National Geographic, some cultural heritage experts are hopeful while others are growing anxious with the ongoing departure of US and European forces. The fear on the part of those who are tasked with taking

care of the nation's uniquely diverse cultural heritage is not unfounded. It is still fresh in their memory, as it is of others, when the Taliban in 2001, destroyed the planet's largest statues, the Bamiyan Buddhas. They also vandalized the National Museum in Kabul and looted antiques from ancient sites. Their attitude towards the past relics, especially the pre-Islamic ones, portrayed them in a bad light at an international level. This time, however, there appears to be a change as the Taliban have given their word to respect the nation's history. In a statement, they commanded their followers to 'robustly protect, monitor and preserve' relics, halt illegal digs and safeguard 'all historic sites.' But only time will tell whether the commitment is only tactical, in order to reduce the resistance of the world community to their re-emergence

or a genuine change of heart born out of the bitter experiences of the past. Interestingly, they have forbidden selling of artefacts in the art market. Their statement said: 'No one should try to disturb such sites or think about using them for profit.' According to the NG article, the statement did not come as a surprise to Cheryl Benard of Washington-based Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ARCH). The write-up states that she told her group last fall that both sides need to address the issue. Not everyone shares this optimism. Afghanistan's Institute of Archaeology's Noor Agha Noori is not convinced. He told NG: "To be honest, we are very worried about the future of cultural heritage were the Taliban to come into power," he said while informing, that Islamists were indulging in looting historical sites in order to

raise finances. Speaking in the same vein, Mohammad Fahim Rahimi, Director of Kabul's National Museum observed that "Unfortunately the statement is not clear, especially concerning the pre-Islamic heritage. You know what happened to the collection during the civil war and in 2001." The museum conservators over the years have painstakingly pieced together many wooden and stone sculptures which were broken deliberately. There are many who pin their hopes on the US brokered talks between the Taliban and the Afghan Government hoping that the region's past will be protected. Last year, the Government had said yes to discuss 'ensuring the security of historical and Islamic sites' during their talks while the statement of February gives an indication on part of Taliban to do so as well. Nasratullah Hewadwall of the Kabul branch of ARCH remarked: "It's a great and positive step." He shared that last year, the Taliban had distanced itself from the destruction of Bamiyan Buddhas in 2001 while

blaming it on Al-Qaeda. According to Hewadwall, the leadership of the group has realized the economic significance of ancient heritage and sites as tourist attractions while also perceiving that destroying them damages their image. In terms of historical significance, there is much to be lost if Afghanistan's cultural heritage is not preserved. Being at the geographical crossroads of Central Asia, the region has attracted traders, merchants, scholars, pilgrims and armies since the arrival of Alexander The Great. Afghanistan is where Buddhism spread to China and it is this place where Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism flourished, both before and after the advent of Islam in the 7th Century AD. Also, as part of the Silk Route which connected India with China and Iran, it contains the remains of several ancient cities, monasteries and sarais, which housed travelers. Besides the threat of the Taliban, a greater fear which... **P3**

Iran's Imported Electricity to Herat Cut Off

Officials from the Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) in Herat province said that Iran's imported electricity to the province has been cut off for two days. Provincial DABS Spokesman Zainab Mohsini in an interview with Reporterly, confirmed the incident and said that energy officials in Iran cut off electricity on Tuesday morning, due to power problems and energy shortages in the country, and said that Iran's 132kw imported electricity to Herat will remain cut-off on Tuesday and Wednesday. She added that initially it was stated that the power cut would be a probability, and efforts were ongoing to keep electricity

sustainable at least in Herat province, but that the lack of energy in Iran is serious and given the seriousness of the crisis, imported electricity from Iran has been completely cut off. Mohsini said, "With the talks that head of DABS in Herat held with energy officials in Iran, it was agreed that at least 10mw of energy would be provided to Herat so that we could distribute through two 20kw power-lines to citizens for limited hours so that they can solve their requirements." "According to Iranian officials, the power cut will continue for two days and nights, and nothing has yet been said about its extension or reduction," she added. Currently, about 70%



of Herat's power requirements are imported from Iran, and the issue will disrupt dozens of manufacturing factories in the province.

Turkish...

United Nations, NATO, to reaching an agreement with the Afghan government, as well as political, financial, and logistical support, we are in contact with various countries. Meanwhile, our talks with the Americans also continue," Akar said. "No final decision has been made yet, but our talks continue."

Oil Hits...

party to these talks, but Administration officials have been engaged with relevant capitals to urge a compromise solution that will allow proposed production increases to move forward," the spokesperson said. Iraqi Oil Minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar said on Monday that his country does not want to see oil prices soaring above current levels and that he hoped that within 10 days a date would be set for a new OPEC+ meeting.

Turkey, Pakistan...

the commander of the Multinational Brigade in Afghanistan, according to a statement issued from the Presidency. He was promoted to the rank of major general in 2005, lieutenant-general in 2009 and general in 2013. He served as the commander of the 3rd Army for two years and subsequently served as the commander of the 1st Army. He also served as the acting chief of the general staff for a brief period in 2016. Dündar served as the deputy chief of the general staff from 2016 to 2018. He was appointed as the commander of the Turkish Land Forces by Turkey's president in July 2018. Dündar was called a "sincere and close friend of Pakistan who played a role in the strengthening of Pakistan-Turkish ties" at the ceremony.

Paliban Plan...

added. "Legitimacy and assistance for any Afghan government can only be possible if that government has a basic respect for human rights." Western security officials said insurgent forces have captured more than 100 districts but the Taliban say they have control of more than 200 districts in 34 provinces comprising over half the Central Asian country. On Sunday, more than 1,000 Afghan security personnel retreated across the northern border into Tajikistan after Taliban advances, the Tajik border guard service said, while dozens of others were

Afghanistan on...

later this week. Jaishankar's visit to Moscow is a follow-up to the trip by his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, to New Delhi in April this year. Quoting people familiar with the matter, Hindustan Times reports that the Indian external affairs minister and his Russian counterpart "will discuss all bilateral and international developments, including the most vital and current issues such as Afghanistan." The visit will happen at a time that the Taliban has taken over a large number of districts, especially in northern Afghanistan that shares a border with Central Asian countries, something that has creates concerns in

captured by the insurgents. Diplomats overseeing the intra-Afghan talks have repeatedly sought the help of neighboring Pakistan to convince Taliban leaders to offer a written peace plan even if it took a maximalist line, such as the restoration of hardline Islamist rule reminiscent of the group's 1996-2001 period in power. Last month the European Union's special envoy for Afghanistan, Tomas Niklasson, said time was running out and that a written proposal would be a sign of successful Pakistani leverage over the Taliban. Najia Anwari, spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry for Peace Affairs,

confirmed that intra-Afghan talks had resumed and said its representatives were "very happy" that Taliban envoys were rejecting the process outright. "It is difficult to anticipate that the Taliban will provide us with their written document of a peace plan in a month but let's be positive. We hope they present (it) so as to understand what they want," said Anwari. Last month the head of Afghanistan's official peace council urged that the long halting talks on a settlement to end the decades of devastating violence should not be abandoned despite surging Taliban attacks - unless the insurgents themselves pulled out.

Russia as well as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The group has taken over the Sher Khan Bandar crossing, north of Kunduz city, the main trade gateway into Tajikistan, over the last two weeks. Another border town, Bandar-e-Hairatan, in Balkh province, the main trade gateway into Uzbekistan, was under threat by the Taliban but the government announced last week that more troops were deployed to protect the town. Reuters reported that Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on Monday ordered the mobilization of 20,000 military reservists to bolster the border with Afghanistan. Reports indicate that more than 1,000 Afghan

security personnel fled across the border in response to Taliban advances. On Sunday, President Ghani in a phone conversation with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon discussed issues pertaining to "Afghan citizens' seeking sanctuary at Tajik border areas after facing Taliban attacks." Tajik President Emomali Rahmon expressed concern over the conditions caused as a result of the conflict, the Presidential Palace said. According to a Presidential Palace statement, President Ghani appreciated Tajikistan's showing goodwill to the displaced Afghans and said the Afghan government "will adopt immediate measures to address their needs."

Will Afghanistan...

grips cultural conservators is that of the chaos that will follow the departure of the American and NATO troops. According to Jolyon Leslie, who is working as a preservationist at an ancient Buddhist stupa outside Kabul: "Our fears are less about a possible threat posed by the Taliban than the prospect of a breakdown in law and order." Chaos already exists, informs Hewadwall, especially in rural areas. The twin factors of lack of security and shifting alliances has enabled poverty-stricken villagers, gangs, different

militia and the Taliban to steal artifacts and smuggle them. Many place their hopes on the Afghan officials who have so far done well to preserve the sites, museums and artifacts from decay and destruction. The article quotes NG's archaeologist Fredrik Hiebert, who, talking about the Afghan officials said that "They will be good caretakers. I have total confidence in them." According to him, they have braved arrest and even death in their call of duty. It also finally boils down to whether normalcy returns to Afghanistan, which has

been ravaged by civil war and battles for decades. Murtaza Azizi, a senior Ministry official averred, "Once lasting peace comes to our country, we are eager to share this heritage with the world. We hope our tourism industry and with it, the economy, will grow not only in Balkh, but all over Afghanistan." Although given the Taliban's idiosyncrasies of the past and the strong connection of some of powerful factions, such as the Haqanni network with Pakistan's ISI, few will say that the Taliban's basic DNA has changed.

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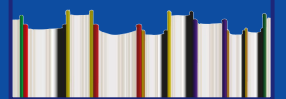
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Print: Waygal Printing .Co - +93 - 202512626

France, Germany and China Call for Reviving Iran Nuclear Deal

The leaders of France, Germany and China are calling at the parties involved talks about Iran's nuclear ambitions to take advantage of a "window of opportunity" to revive the 2015 deal that was derailed when former US president, Donald Trump, pulled out. French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who spoke via videoconference on Monday, agreed on the need to move negotiations forward to get a deal "as soon as possible" and avoid the risk of nuclear proliferation and further threats to regional stability. The 2015 accord is aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, with

the promise of lifting international sanctions in exchange for Tehran's restricting its nuclear activities. Current US President Joe Biden says he wants the US to return to the agreement and revive it, but in six rounds of talks in Vienna this spring, the six countries that remain – Iran, along with France, Britain, China, Germany, and Russia – have been inconclusive. Iran and the US have been holding indirect talks, and diplomats from both sides have said major differences remain, and each wants the other to make greater concessions before resuming negotiations. Iran has insisted on the lifting of all sanctions, pointing

to the promises of economic relief under the accord. The Biden administration says it is ready to lift economic measures related to nuclear work, but that it will keep other sanctions, including over human rights and Iran's support to militant movements in the Arab world. At the end of June, after the last of the negotiation rounds, France urged Iran to make decisions to allow the revival of the accord. "We expect the Iranian authorities to take the final decisions -- no doubt difficult ones -- which will allow the negotiations to be concluded" in Vienna, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.



A look at the world

Airplane With 28 On-Board Crashes into Sea in Eastern Russia

A Russian airplane with 28 people on board crashed into the sea on Tuesday off Russia's far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula as it was preparing to land, RIA news agency reported on Tuesday. The plane, an Antonov An-26 twin-engined turboprop, was en route from the regional capital Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to Palana, a village in northern Kamchatka, when it lost contact with air traffic control, Russia's emergencies ministry said. There were 22 passengers and six crew on board, the ministry added, according to Reuters. Valentina Glazova, a spokesperson for



the local transport prosecutor's office, told Agence France-Presse (AFP) that a wide-ranging search was underway Tuesday. "All that is known at this time, what has been possible to establish, is that communication with the plane was interrupted and it did not land," she said, adding that the plane had been operated by a local aviation company called Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise. The company's director, Alexei Khabarov, told the Interfax news agency that the plane was technically sound. An investigation has been launched. "We will search until it gets dark," Khabarov was cited by Russia's Tass news agency as saying. Russian news agencies quoted local officials as saying most of the passengers were from Palana – which has a population of about 3,000 – including four local government officials and the town's head Olga Mokhryova. Kamchatka's government published a list of 28 people who were on board the plane, including Mokhryova and one child born in 2014. Officials said that communication with the plane had been lost nine kilometers (5.5 miles) from Palana's airport and 10 minutes before its scheduled landing time. Citing emergency... **P2**

Oil Hits Multi-Year Highs After OPEC, Allies Talks Collapse



Oil prices surged to multi-year highs on Tuesday – including U.S. crude hitting its highest since 2014 – after oil-producing nations fell out over plans to raise supply in the face of rising global demand. Brent crude climbed 62 cents, or 0.8%, to \$77.78 a barrel by 7:48 a.m. GMT, a level not seen since October 2018. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures traded up \$1.75, or 2.3%, at \$76.91, their highest since November 2014. Talks collapsed on Monday among ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a group known as OPEC+. No date for resuming negotiations was agreed after the talks were carried over for the third day after disagreements last week. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it would go along with output increases but a deal fell through after the UAE rejected a separate proposal to extend curbs to end-2022. Some OPEC+ sources said they still believed OPEC+ would resume discussions this month and agree to pump more from August while others said current curbs might stay in place. "With large inventory drawdowns expected whether output remains unchanged or increases by 400,000 barrels per day per month (from August), oil prices are likely to remain well supported in the near term," analysts at bank ING said. "Without an injection of some extra barrels of oil in the coming weeks, given the tightness of the market, Brent might cross the \$80 per barrel threshold," UniCredit's analysts said. The Biden administration is pushing for a compromise solution in the talks, a White House spokesperson said on Monday. "We are not a... **P3**

Turkey, Pakistan to Increase Military Cooperation

Turkey and Pakistan on Monday agreed to increase their cooperation in the military field, especially in training and the fight against terrorism. According to a statement by the Inter Services Public Relations Pakistan (ISPR), Gen. Ümit Dündar of the Turkish Land Forces met with Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, chief of army staff (COAS) in Pakistan's Rawalpindi. Discussing bilateral relations during the visit,



the two senior military officials underlined the importance of defense and security cooperation. Pakistan's President Arif Alvi on the same day conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz or Order of Excellence – a highly prestigious military award – to Dündar, at the President House in the capital, Islamabad. The ceremony was attended by high civil and military officials, including the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, state-run Pakistan Television reported. Dündar graduated from the Army War College in 1985, from Royal Army Staff College (United Kingdom) in 1991 and from the Armed Forces College in 1994. He served as the chief of construction, real estate and NATO infrastructure department of the Ministry of National Defense from 2001 to 2004 and as the commander of the 28th Mechanized Infantry Brigade from 2004 to 2005. During this period, he also served as... **P3**



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