



Kabul  
37° / 21°



Herat  
38° / 23°



Nangarhar  
26° / 26°



Balkh  
37° / 31°



# Heart of Asia

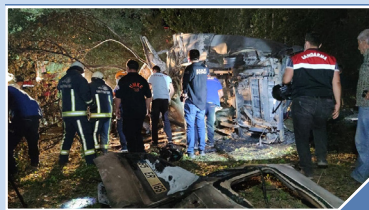
Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

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10 afs



## 12 Migrants Including Afghans Killed in Bus Crash in Turkey

A minivan carrying Afghan, Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants crashed in eastern Turkey early on Sunday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 26 others, local authorities said. The crash occurred in Van province's Muradiye district near the Turkish border with Iran, where the vehicle caught fire after tumbling into a ditch, two local sources with information on the matter told Reuters. The identities of those killed in the accident were not immediately clear, both sources said, adding that the owner of the bus had been detained. Turkey has been a key transit point for migrants aiming to cross into Europe. Migrants, mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, regularly cross the Iranian border into Turkey on foot before being ferried west to cities such as Istanbul and Ankara.



## Iran's Common Borders with Afghanistan in Full Security

Referring to the recent conflicts in Afghanistan, the Commander of IRGC Ground Force said that all of Iran's eastern and common borders with Afghanistan are in complete security and peace. "With regards to civil wars in Afghanistan, nothing special has happened at the border between Iran and Afghanistan and there is complete security and peace on all the eastern borders with that country," said Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour on the sidelines of a visit to the Dowqarun border on Sunday. "Following the events of the past few days in Afghanistan, it is possible that some miscreants and smugglers will take advantage of this opportunity and enter the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will undoubtedly be dealt with... P3

# China Blames US for Security Crisis in Afghanistan



China has blamed the United States for the current security crisis in Afghanistan and said that Washington is withdrawing its troops from the war-torn country by throwing the war on the Afghan people. "The United States ignores its responsibilities and duties and hastily withdraws troops from Afghanistan, leaving disaster and war on the Afghan people and countries in the region," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang

said on Saturday. Wenbin, The News International reported. "The United States, as the original culprit of the Afghan problem, has an inescapable responsibility for the current situation in Afghanistan," he added. The Pakistani publication also reported that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will discuss the Afghan security situation with his counterparts from Russia, India, Pakistan and numerous Central Asian countries at a meeting of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization next week. Earlier, China evacuated its citizens from Afghanistan as US troops stepped up their withdrawal from the war-torn nation, the airline that carried out the emergency chartered flight said, The News reported. Among them were 22 people who were later confirmed to be infected with coronavirus, despite the airline taking "first-rate epidemic prevention measures" during the flight and upon landing,

it added. The Taliban have been taking over newer districts and areas at lightning speed and Afghan government forces are fleeing various locations there as well. Meanwhile, Afghan government officials have dismissed as propaganda claims by Taliban officials that the insurgent group had captured 85 percent of the territory in Afghanistan, amid the withdrawal of US troops from the country.

## 1,177 Taliban Insurgents Killed in 174 Operations: Govt

Kabul: Ajmal Omar Shinwari, spokesman for the security services, on Sunday said that in the past five days, 12 security forces had attacked Taliban positions in 25 provinces. He added that 1,177 Taliban insurgents had been killed and 651 wounded in 124 attacks since Wednesday last week. According to Shinwari, the Taliban have lost control of the Aliabad in Kunduz, Yaftal in Badakhshan, Adraskan in Herat and Arghandab districts of Kandahar in the past four days. He added that the Taliban had killed four civilians, wounded six others and set fire to a school. Ajmal Omar Shinwari said that the security... P3



## Afghanistan Installs Anti-Missile System at Kabul Airport

The Afghan government on Sunday said it has installed and activated a new air defense system in the capital Kabul to thwart any rocket and missile strikes. "It is the most used system in the world for repelling rockets and missiles," the Interior Ministry said in a statement, asserting that Afghan security forces are ready to defend their people and territory at any cost. Surrounded by tall, Rocky Mountains, the capital of landlocked Afghanistan has been prone to rocket attacks throughout its modern turbulent history. Multiple magnetic bomb blasts and rocket attacks rocked Kabul on Nov. 21, 2020, killing at least eight people and injuring over 30. Earlier, multiple rockets hit the highly guarded diplomatic enclave during Independence Day celebrations. According to the



ministry, at least 10 people were injured in 14 rockets fired from two cars. The attack forced disruption in the live telecast by the state broadcaster RTA of the high-profile celebrations. In March the same year, similar mortar attacks briefly disrupted the oath-taking ceremony of President Ashraf Ghani. In a separate development, the ministry claimed the killing

of 18 Taliban insurgents in a joint offensive carried out by the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in Ghazni province. Intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban continues amid the withdrawal of foreign troops. President Joe Biden has said that the US military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on Aug. 31.



## Chinese-Built...

Currently, there are six passenger trains operating along the Mombasa-Nairobi route daily while 16 freight trains have been transporting bulk cargo in a seamless and safe manner on a daily basis. "So far in 2021, 221,000 TEUs have been transported, an increase of 26.6 percent compared with the highest freight volume in previous records," said the operator, adding that trains exclusively earmarked for grain and double-stack trains are also regularly operated along the Mombasa-Nairobi corridor. The operator said enhancing safety has been at the heart of SGR's corporate culture while staff members have been trained to enable them to acquire skills required to ensure risk to passenger and cargo is mitigated to the lowest level possible. "Through case education on railway accidents in China and other countries, staff safety awareness and quality are greatly enhanced," said the operator. According to AfriStar, the staff have been trained to boost safety of equipment and enforce environmental protection measures along the SGR corridor that include pristine wildlife sanctuaries. The operator has developed guidelines to boost safety of SGR operations and in 2020 alone spent 2.8 million US dollars to improve public security through acquisition of cutting edge technology and hiring of personnel. The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR, which replaces the meter gauge railway that was constructed more than 100 years ago during the British colonial rule, has been an important fruit that came out of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in late 2015.

By: Vijay Prashad

## Threat for Neighbors

THE United States, which has prosecuted a war against Afghanistan since October 2001, has promised to withdraw its combat troops by September 11, 2021. This war has failed to attain any of the gains that were promised after 20 years of fighting: neither has it resulted in the actual fragmentation of terrorist groups nor has it led to the destruction of the Taliban. The great suffering and great waste of social wealth caused due to the war will finally end with the Taliban's return to power, and with terrorist groups, which are entrenched in parts of Central Asia, seizing this prospect to make a full return to Afghanistan.

Civil war  
THERE are two forms of war that exist in Afghanistan. First, there is the war prosecuted by the United States — and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — against their adversaries in Afghanistan. The US and NATO have allied with a range of political projects, which certainly includes the government of the president of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. This is the war that the US and NATO have indicated will now be ending. Second, there is the ongoing civil war between the Ashraf Ghani government, backed by the west, and the forces around the Taliban. This is a war among Afghans, which has roots that go back several decades. As the first form of the war ends, the civil war will continue. The two principal forces in Afghanistan — the government of Ashraf Ghani and the Taliban — are unwilling to form a government of national unity or to create a mechanism to end the civil war. Failure of peace talks between the various stakeholders in Afghanistan — including the United States — in Doha, Qatar, suggests the continuation of the civil war. The United States, since 2001, has not drawn up any serious political road map for a withdrawal. The US will leave as it came, with the US troops taking off as abruptly as they arrived. Already, the Afghan National Army is weakened, much of the Afghan territory outside its full control. In recent months, the Taliban has been keeping its powder dry, waiting for the US to withdraw before it steps up its attack against the government in Kabul. A report by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring

Team, which was submitted to the United Nations Security Council on June 1, suggests that Al Qaeda and the Haqqani network prepare to strike as soon as the opportunity arises. Al Qaeda is 'such an organic or essential part of the insurgency that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to separate it from its Taliban allies,' the report noted. A Pakistani intelligence official, who is well-informed about the situation in Afghanistan, told me that the countryside will gradually slip further out of Kabul's control, with the Taliban and its allies — including Al Qaeda and other regional terrorist groups — confident of victory by the end of the summer in 2022. There is no appetite either in the United States or in Central Asia for the continuation of the US military presence. Nothing good has come of it, and it does not promise any advantage in the future. Regional possibility  
ON JUNE 3, 2021, Afghanistan's foreign minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar, China's minister of foreign affairs Wang Yi, and Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held their fourth trilateral dialogue. This was the first high-level meeting held since September 2019. There was no direct reference to the withdrawal of the US forces, but it set the context for the two most important outcomes of the meeting. First, China pledged to play a 'constructive role' to improve the long-fraught relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which have become more heated up because of the regional conflict between India and Pakistan. China has close ties with the governments in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the Belt and Road Initiative requiring peace in Central Asia for the success of the massive infrastructure and trade project, which runs from China's Pacific coast to the Indian Ocean and to the Mediterranean Sea. China's leverage over these countries is considerable. Even if China can create a modus vivendi between president Ghani and Pakistan's prime minister Imran Khan, it does not settle the deeper problems, such as the military weakness of Ghani's government. Second, based on these governments' cooperation in the counterterrorism process, the foreign ministers agreed to jointly tackle terrorist outfits that operate in Afghanistan and



in its neighboring countries: such as the Turkistan Islamic Party or East Turkestan Islamic Movement, ISIS, and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. Pakistan's government is troubled by the operations of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, which operates along the borderlines of the two countries but is based in Afghanistan's Paktika province. China, meanwhile, is very concerned about the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, which operates in Afghanistan and Tajikistan and has been trying to destabilize the Chinese province of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement has close ties with the Taliban, which — while it has held discussions with the Chinese — understands that its use of the ETIM gives it leverage against China. Whether or not these three governments will actually be able to weaken these terrorist groups, incubated by the Taliban, is unclear.  
Tangled web  
IT NOW seems impossible for the United States to formally remain in Afghanistan. There is simply no political will for the troops to remain in the country, even as the US will keep paramilitary and mercenary forces in Afghanistan. Given the heightened US pressure on China, however, there is plenty of evidence that the US is not unhappy with the possibility of instability that will come to the heart of Asia after the summer of 2021. In 2003, the US designated the East Turkestan Islamic Movement as a terrorist group, but it removed it from that list in 2020. This is clear evidence of the US motives to destabilize China's Xinjiang province. The Pakistani intelligence official suggests

that if the Taliban takes Kabul, groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement will be emboldened to conduct attacks in Pakistan and China respectively. These groups, he tells me, will fight alongside the Taliban to weaken Kabul's hold and to use the countryside to launch these attacks; there is no necessity for the Taliban to actually take control of Kabul. The question that remains is whether or not the Taliban can be divided. The Taliban is a tangle of Afghan nationalism and patriotism as well as various forms of political Islam. There are elements in the Taliban that are far more nationalistic and patriotic than they are committed to the Islamist currents. Attempts to peel the 'moderates' away from the more hardcore sections have largely failed, which has been evident since at least former US president Barack Obama's failed plea to the 'moderate Taliban' in 2009. There is simply not sufficient strength in Afghanistan's society to resist the spread of the Taliban. Nor is there an organized capacity of Afghan citizens present yet to build a new bloc against both the failed US-backed governments (from Hamid Karzai to Ghani) and the Taliban. But if Afghanistan's neighbors cut off their support to the Taliban, and if they are able to deepen an economic project (such as the Belt and Road Initiative), then there is the possibility for this new bloc to eventually emerge. That is why the dialogue between Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan is central. It might, in fact, be more important in the long run than the conversations with the Taliban.

By: Shamil Shams, Masood Saifullah

## Is Afghanistan Heading Toward a Civil War?

The Taliban are reportedly sweeping across Afghanistan's rural areas, bringing more territories under their control. Afghan government forces are finding it increasingly difficult to repel Islamist militants without NATO's crucial air power. The insurgents now control two-thirds of the Afghan-Tajik border, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday, adding that they were also able to capture key economic centers on the border with Iran. Earlier this week, Taliban fighters launched an assault on the provincial capital of Qala-e-Naw, their first bid to seize a large city since the US started withdrawing its troops. Experts say it is just a matter of time before the Taliban advance toward the capital,

Kabul. But US President Joe Biden is optimistic that the Afghan army is capable of countering the Taliban offensive. He told reporters in Washington, DC, that it is not "inevitable" that the Taliban will take over the country following the US pullout. Limited options for the Afghan government It is becoming increasingly difficult for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to hold on to power, despite Biden's assurance to him that the US will continue to back his government. At the same time, Biden said on Friday that "Afghan leaders have to come together and drive forward a future." "We did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build," Biden said. The peace process following the 2020 US-Taliban deal in Qatar

has failed to yield the desired results. Intra-Afghan talks have stalled, with both the government and the Taliban blaming each other for the impasse. Ghani has few options in this situation. His government is now turning to warlords and influential tribal figures for support, to help Kabul put together anti-Taliban militias. Afghan officials, including new Defense Minister Bismillah Mohammadi, are calling on the people to join the fight against the Taliban. "People have taken matters into their own hands by picking up arms to support their security forces against the Taliban," Fawad Aman, the deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's Defense Ministry, told DW, adding

that the local support has helped Afghan security forces push back the Taliban in many areas. Dangers of arming the citizens  
Some Afghan experts, however, see a risk in arming the local population against the Taliban. "This could prove effective in the short term, but these armed groups could become a problem for the country in the future," Assadullah Nadim, a Kabul-based security analyst, told DW. Armed citizen groups, according to Nadim, could change allegiance once they realize that their interests are better served by supporting other stakeholders. "Influential Afghans, warlords and local leaders are leading an anti-Taliban campaign," the expert said, adding that they could turn their back on the government anytime. Nadim said the government should instead focus on strengthening the Afghan military. Nasratullah Stanakzai, a lecturer

at the University of Kabul, said the government needed to bring local militias under the Afghan army's control to better manage them. The warlords and tribal leaders behind these local militias are also accused of human rights violations. Ahmad Saidi, a Kabul-based analyst, is of the view that Ghani needs to manage these local militias, which "could be used as proxies by other regional countries." Back to the 1990s?  
Afghanistan descended into total chaos after the occupying Soviet forces left the country in the late 1980s. A civil war ensued, with regional powers backing different warlords and militias to capture Kabul. Thousands of people died in the conflict, with the Taliban, allegedly backed by Pakistan, finally seizing Kabul in 1996. Experts fear that the withdrawal of NATO troops would unleash a similar crisis in Afghanistan... **P3**



## Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade Agreement Extended for Six Months

Afghan and Pakistani officials at a ceremony on Thursday signed the 6-month extension of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). In this ceremony, Afghan and Pakistani officials appreciated the increase in trade and exports from both sides, Pakistan's ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan said. He said that the officials "lauded the excellent work of technical teams noting significant progress in negotiations on new APTTA" and that the "Pakistan side welcomed the Afghan offer to host the 9th APTTCA (the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority) in Kabul in August." According to Khan, Pakistan's Commerce Minister Abdul Razzak Dawood said that he will lead the Pakistan delegation to Kabul along with a large delegation of businesspersons and investors to have an interaction with their

Afghan counterparts on the sidelines of the 9th APTTCA meeting. Afghan and Pakistani officials said that 95 percent of problems in the way of trade and transit between the two countries have been solved. The only problem that has remained is Pakistan's opposition to imports of Indian goods through Pakistan to Afghanistan, Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce Nisar Ahmad Ghoryani said. The officials said that a delegation from Pakistan is expected to visit Kabul, solve the issue and sign a new agreement on trade and transit between the two countries. "The issue that has left is a political issue between them (India and Pakistan) that we don't have the right to interfere. We had progressed in this respect too. We will also get the permission so that the goods are sent to Central Asia," Ghoryani said. "Political issues have always had



impacts on our trade activities," said Yunus Mohmand, the deputy minister of industry and commerce. "We hope that politics is removed from trade." Pakistan on Thursday ended the limitation on Pakistani companies for transfer of Afghan goods from Karachi Port. But the private sector

said that such facilities can be removed at any time in absence of an agreement in this respect. "Now everyone, even those who have one truck, can carry goods. This is good for us," said Khan Jan Alokozay, head of the joint chamber of commerce of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### Iran's Common...

severely by the armed forces stationed on the eastern borders," he added. Stating that all the borders of the country are being monitored, he noted, "Any move that is intended to make Iran and the surrounding areas insecure will be followed by a decisive response from the armed forces." Iran shares more than 900 kilometers of border with Afghanistan. The provinces of Herat, Farah and Nimroz in Afghanistan are bordered by the provinces of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan in Iran.

### G20 Finance...

and the roll-out of supportive policies. They underlined that the recovery remains uneven, and "exposed to downside risks, in particular the spread of new variants of the COVID-19 virus and different paces of vaccination." "We reaffirm our resolve to use all available policy tools for as long as required to address the adverse consequences of COVID-19, especially on the most impacted, such as women, youth and informal and low-skilled workers," the final statement read. "We will continue to sustain the recovery, avoiding any premature withdrawal of support measures, while remaining consistent with central bank mandates ... and preserving financial stability and long-term fiscal sustainability." Created in 1999, the G20 serves as a main and informal forum for international cooperation on financial and economic issues. It comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. The countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, Britain, and the United States. The group, home to almost two-thirds of the world's population, accounts for about 86 percent of the gross world product and 75 percent of global trade as of 2020.

### 1,177 Taliban...

forces are fully prepared to carry out offensive operations and clear areas that are facing a high threat or state of emergency; however, they delayed the operation due to the possibility of civilian casualties and public facilities. "The Taliban are using civilians and mosques as shields," he added. "Therefore, we cannot carry out air and artillery attacks." Shinwari, meanwhile, noted that the Taliban group is incapable of fighting security forces, and that the group does not adhere to any principles of warfare and human rights by shielding civilians and homes. On the other hand, Shinwari denied the damage of the choppers in Kunduz, the claim that the Baghlan police chief

cooperated with the Taliban and that the Taliban controlled 85% of Afghanistan's territory. Shinwari also said that Islam Qala customs in Herat province is under the control of the country's security and defense forces. Shinwari also spoke about Sher Khan port in Kunduz province, saying that the port is not currently under the control of any party. Shinwari said Sher Khan port is currently a disputed area between security and defense forces and Taliban fighters. He said that efforts are being made to send more security forces to Sher Khan port and secure the port as soon as possible without any casualties to civilians or the port facilities. Regarding the port of Hairatan, Shinwari said that all security problems in

the port have been resolved. Meanwhile, leading a high-level National Directorate of Security (NDS) delegation, along with the heads of Parliamentary Complaints and Women's Affairs Committees Sadiq Qaderi and Nahid Farid, MPs Shahpoor Popal and Mohammad Reza Khoshak, NDS Chief Ahmad Zia Saraj traveled to Herat province to assess the security situation. The delegation held a meeting with provincial governor Abdul Saboor Qane, provincial council head, the 207th Zafar Army Corps commander, and other senior security officials, wherein Qane explained the security situation and plans and measures to gain support from the central government and welcomed people and mujahideen's support to suppress the Taliban.

### Turkey...

Muslims were killed when Bosnian Serb forces attacked Srebrenica in July 1995, despite the presence of Dutch peacekeeping troops. Serb forces were trying to wrest territory from Bosnian Muslims and Croats to form a state. The United Nations Security Council declared Srebrenica a "safe area" in the spring of 1993. But troops led by Gen. Mladic overran

the U.N. zone. He was later found guilty of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Dutch troops failed to act as Serb forces occupied the area, killing 2,000 men and boys on July 11, 1995, alone. About 15,000 residents of Srebrenica fled to the surrounding mountains, but Serb troops hunted down and killed 6,000 more people. Bodies of victims have been found

in 570 different areas across the country. In 2007, the International Court of Justice at The Hague ruled that genocide had been committed in Srebrenica. On June 8, U.N. tribunal judges upheld in a second-instance trial, a verdict sentencing Mladic to life in prison for the genocide, persecution, crimes against humanity, extermination and other war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Is Afghanistan...

"The Taliban are emerging victorious not just in their traditional areas in the south of Afghanistan, like Kandahar or Helmand, but also in northern districts such as Mazar-e-Sharif. The government forces seem to be on the back foot, while warlords are rearming to fight the Taliban," Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani journalist and best-selling author of

several books, including Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, told DW in an interview. "It's an extremely dangerous situation that can suck in the neighboring countries. If that happens, that will be the end of Afghanistan," he added. Michael Kugelman, deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the Washington-based

Wilson Center, told DW that "Afghanistan is already embroiled in a civil war." "Even as anti-Taliban militias are rising, the government in Kabul remains weak and unpopular. The question is not whether Afghanistan is facing the prospect of a civil war; the question is that how much worse the existing civil war can get," Kugelman said.

### Exchange Rates

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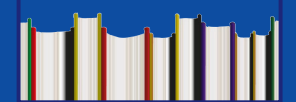
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# G20 Finance Ministers Agree to Go Ahead with Global Tax Reform

Finance ministers of the world's 20 largest economies (G20) on Saturday agreed to go ahead with the plan to design a global tax system that would impose a minimum levy on multinational companies. After a two-day meeting in Venice, the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors reaffirmed the common will to reform the international business tax system. If implemented, this would put an end to multinational corporations shifting profits to low-tax heavens around the world. In the final communique, they wrote that they achieved "a historic agreement on a more stable and fairer international tax architecture" after several years of talks and building on the progress made last year. "We have endorsed the key components of the two pillars: on

the allocation of profits of multinational enterprises and on an effective global minimum corporate tax," Italian Economy and Finance Minister Daniele Franco said at the closing press conference. The agreement would be relevant in order to "contribute to stabilizing the international tax system in the coming years," said Franco, whose country holds the G20 presidency this year. However, "additional work is necessary between now and October to fully finalize it," he said. The plan will have to be definitely approved by G20 heads of state and government gathering in Rome in October for the annual major summit. On the economy, the G20 finance leaders said the outlook has improved in many countries since their last meeting in April, mainly thanks to ongoing vaccination campaigns... **P3**



### A look at the world

#### US Base in Syria's Al-Omar Oil Field Targeted by Missiles

News sources reported another missile attack on a US base at the al-Omar oil field in eastern Syria on Sunday. Media sources reported another missile attack on the US base at the al-Omar oil field, where US troops are stationed. The Saber News reported that the US base at the al-Omar oil field in Syria's Deir ez-Zor province was hit by a rocket today, and smoke can be seen in the sky after the rocket hit the US base. Some Arab sources reported this morning that some rockets had hit a US coalition



base in Deir ez-Zor province, near the Iraqi-Syrian border. Four missiles hit the base directly, the Saber News wrote. Eyewitnesses also reported that they could see smoke and fire in the Koniko base and that a large number of US coalition planes flew over the city. Minutes later, the Syrian state news agency SANA reported, citing local sources that an explosion took place after midnight inside a military base for the US forces at Koniko gas factory in the eastern countryside. The sources added that unusual movements of the US forces were observed in the area after the explosion, without providing details of its causes or results due to the closure imposed by the occupation in the vicinity of the base. US forces are stationed at several military bases in Syria, the most important of which are near the al-Omar oil field and the Koniko gas field in Deir ez-Zor and al-Tanf in southeastern Syria.

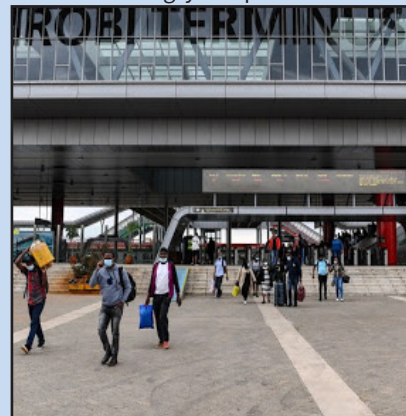
#### Turkey Commemorates Victims of Srebrenica Genocide



Turkey Sunday marked the 26th anniversary of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, in which over 8,000 Bosnian civilians were brutally killed by Serbian forces. In a video message, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan commemorated those who lost their lives in the genocide. Turkey will continue to stand with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bosnians, he said. Turkey will never let the genocide, which is "a black mark in the history of Europe and humanity," be forgotten, he added. "The wounds Srebrenica opened in our hearts are still bleeding although 26 years have passed," Erdoğan said. Vice President Fuat Oktay on Twitter quoted a statement by Alija Izetbegovic, independent Bosnia's first president: "Whatever you do, don't forget the genocide. Because the forgotten genocide is repeated." "We have not forgotten; we will not forget ... On the 26th anniversary of the #Srebrenica genocide, I commemorate our 8,372 Bosnian brothers who were martyred. May their place be in heaven," he said. Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also tweeted an image that said: "July 11, 1995. We did not forget and we will not forget the Srebrenica genocide." "On the 26th anniversary of the #Srebrenica Genocide, the black mark of human history, I wish Allah's mercy on those who were martyred in this persecution, and patience for their families and our Bosnian brothers and sisters," he wrote. More than 8,000 Bosnian... **P3**

#### Chinese-Built Modern Railway in Kenya Marks 1,500 Days of Safe Operation

The Chinese-built Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) linking Kenya's port city Mombasa to the capital Nairobi is celebrating 1,500 days of safe operation as it seeks to boost the safety of passengers and cargo along the 480 km corridor. A statement from the SGR operator released in Nairobi on Friday said the modern train service has been at the forefront of Kenya's socio-economic transformation in the last four years since its operationalization. "SGR's transportation indicators and its increasingly important social



significance have also earned the approval of freight owners and passengers," said Africa Star Railway Operation Company Limited (AfriStar) that operates SGR. The operator said 1,500 days marked a milestone in safe, efficient and quality operation of both the SGR passenger and cargo service adding that Kenyan, Chinese and regional governments have hailed the modern train service. According to AfriStar, the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR is also boosting Kenya's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that delivery of critical supplies is not interrupted. Over the last 1,500 days of operations, the SGR has not experienced any major safety lapse. It has reduced travel time between Kenya's capital and the country's second largest city by half. A total of 5,415,000 passengers have been ferried between Nairobi and Mombasa in the last 1,500 days since the SGR commenced operations and the operator estimates 1.8 million commuters could use the service this year... **P2**



# Shigal

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