



Page 2 | NATIONAL
 Biden Should Be Wary of
 Erdogan's Afghanistan
 Gambit

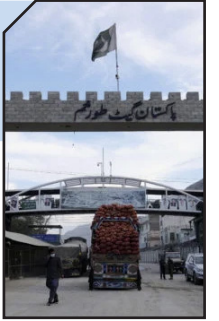
Evaluating India's options in Afghanistan

With the West achieved with Afghanistan, New Delhi must undertake a layered method find a political resolution...

Page 2 | NATIONAL

Page 3 | ECONOMY

Pakistan Reopens
 Afghanistan Border
 Crossing Held by Taliban



Kabul
 36° / 22°



Herat
 33° / 25°



Nangarhar
 39° / 26°



Balkh
 37° / 29°



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Issue No. 993

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Tajikistan Does Not Conduct Negotiation with Representatives of The Taliban Movement

In a report released at a news conference in Dushanbe, Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin noted on July 27 that Dushanbe has always considered "official Kabul as a legitimate government in Afghanistan and has never conducted meetings or negotiations with representatives of the Taliban Movement. "The situation in Afghanistan's districts bordering Tajikistan has seriously deteriorated lately, but Tajikistan's common border with Afghanistan is securely guarded," the minister said. He further noted that Tajikistan has not been conducting negotiations with the Russian Federation... **P3**



Airstrikes Target Taliban Insurgents in Kapisa

Security officials in Kapisa province confirm that five Taliban fighters have been killed in an airstrike in Tagab district of the province. Abdul Shayeq Shores Kohistani, a spokesman for the Kapisa Police, told the Etilaat Roz daily that the airstrike was launched on Monday by foreign forces in the village of Shahid Khel in Tagab district. Kohistani added that the attack targeted a Russian tank belonging to the Taliban. He stressed that the killed Taliban fighters were inside the tank. The spokesperson for the Kapisa police also said that the Russian tank had also been destroyed in the attack by foreign forces. The Taliban have not yet commented. Meanwhile, General Bismillah Mohammadi, the Minister of National Defense, arrived in Balkh on Tuesday at the 209th Shaheen Corps. The meeting and review of the security situation is scheduled to be held in the presence of the governor of Balkh province and military officials under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Defense.

PTM: Pakistan Has to End Its Negative Role in Afghanistan



Afghan people/peace/republic. No coverage in Pak media. The PTM has seen strong support of Pashtuns from neighbouring Afghanistan, which has an uneasy relationship with the government of Pakistan, amplified by a massive trust-deficit. The PTM leaders have criticized the Pakistani military establishment for terrorising Pashtuns. The senior leader of the PTM and Member of Pakistani National Assembly says that the eminent jurists, lawyers, intellectuals are going to participate in the large gathering of all Pashtun leaders to discuss Afghanistan and consult for lasting peace in the country. Mohsin Dawar has consistently spoken against the torture and killings of Pashtuns who are treated by the Pakistani authorities as "third-class citizens". Dawar is an ardent critic of Pakistan and Taliban relations and their activities in Afghanistan. About a fortnight ago, he tagged a video of Taliban leaders roaming freely in Quetta and posted on his twitter account. "Taliban terrorists continue to roam freely in different parts of Pakistan including Quetta. Such brazenness is not possible without the state's consent. Killers of Afghans and thousands of our people are being supported openly. We will continue to... **P3**

The message of the meeting was clear that we no longer accept any war policy on our soil. Today's meeting was for the peace of the entire Pashtun Afghan homeland, and today we made it very clear that Pakistan's negative interference in Afghanistan must stop, and that the war in Afghanistan will bring destruction to this side of the Durand Line (the Pashtun-

inhabited region in Pakistan). The Pakistan ruling regime has always used our soil against Afghanistan for its own interests and benefits, PTM will always oppose it and no one will allow the Pashtun side soil to be used against Afghanistan. Although the Pakistan ruling regime made every effort to thwart the meeting, but the people of South Waziristan bravely stood

by the side of PTM and made it a success. We respect the voice of the Afghan people, and we will always stand by their side. A huge gathering of Pashtuns in Makeen, South waziristan, Yesterday organised by PTM. The gathering opposed the undeclared war against Afghanistan from Pakistani side killing innocent people. A demonstration of solidarity with

Stoltenberg says NATO will continue to support Afghanistan

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he had spoken to Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani to reassure him that NATO would continue to support the country, where Taliban advances have piled pressure on the U.S.-backed government in Kabul. "Good to speak with President Ashraf Ghani today (Tuesday). The security situation in Afghanistan remains deeply challenging, and requires a negotiated settlement," wrote Stoltenberg on his Twitter account on Tuesday. "NATO will continue to support Afghanistan, including with funding; civilian presence; and out-of-country training."



Over 14,000 Families Displaced in Last 15 Days Alone

Statistics from the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations show that in the last 15 days alone, more than 14,000 families have fled their homes due to the war and moved to safer areas. According to the ministry, most of the displaced were from Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Jawzjan, Helmand, Laghman, Paktia and Ghazni provinces. The Ministry of Refugees states that the Ministry has provided food and non-food assistance packages to displaced families and addressed their problems. As the Taliban escalates and the situation worsens, the US government is considering a \$100 million aid package to address the situation of the displaced. Although many families have fled their homes in recent years due to the war, the problem has increased since the



withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Taliban intensified their attacks and took control of some districts as foreign troops began withdrawing in May this year. As the Taliban took control and the fighting intensified in different parts of the country, people migrated and left their homes. The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations says

that since the beginning of the month, more than 72,000 families have left their home areas and settled in relatively safe places. Reza Baher, the ministry's deputy spokesman, told Hashte Subh daily that the number of displaced people had increased over the past two months.

He states that in the... **P2**

Over 14,000...

last one month alone, 19,000 families have been displaced, of which 14,000 have left their homes in the last 15 days. The deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations said most of those displaced were from Kunduz, Jawzjan, Nangarhar, Laghman, Paktika, Farah, Helmand and Ghazni provinces. Baher added that with the Taliban taking control of the area, people had fled their homes and taken refuge in government-controlled areas. According to him, in the last one month alone, 3,511 families in Kunduz, 2,353 families in Uruzgan, 2,082 families in Jawzjan, 1,882 families in Nangarhar, 1,670 families in Laghman, 1,400 families have been displaced in Paktika, 1,094 families in Farah, 945 families in Helmand and 765 families in Ghazni. The people of Ghazni, however, have provided the media with larger statistics on the displaced. In the past two weeks alone, 3,000 families have reportedly been displaced from Malistan district to Ghazni and Kabul cities. Malistan residents told a news conference in Kabul two days ago that the Taliban had harassed people and stormed a number of people as soon as they entered the district. Residents of the district stated that with this approach of the Taliban, people were forced to migrate and about 3,000 families left their areas. Residents of Malistan called on the war-torn parties to provide as soon as possible for the return of the displaced and the opportunity to harvest the people's crops so that life can return to normal. They also called on charities to address the plight of IDPs in the district.

By: Aykan Erdemir

Biden Should Be Wary of Erdogan's Afghanistan Gambit

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he wants to help the United States secure Afghanistan after the departure of American troops, but one has to question the reliability of an ally who admitted last week that Turkey, "does not have any conflicting issues with [the Taliban's] beliefs." Erdogan cast further doubt on his allegiance by suggesting the U.S.-led NATO mission in Afghanistan has been illegitimate from the get-go. "Imperial powers entered Afghanistan; they have been there for over 20 years," the Turkish president said. These comments ought to serve as red flags amid ongoing negotiations between Ankara and Washington over Erdogan's offer to deploy Turkish troops to guard Kabul's international airport after U.S. departure. The airport is Kabul's lifeline to the outside world, providing access for aid workers and foreign diplomats. "The president has made it very clear we're going to maintain a diplomatic presence in Kabul," Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby said earlier this month. "We know that in order to do that, you have to have adequate security at the airport." Entrusting the airport to the Turkish president may not be the wisest choice. Erdogan has a history of supporting the militant Hamas and even, for a while, the Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria. He helped Iran evade U.S. sanctions and purchased weapons from NATO's leading adversary Russia. Despite the hazards of trusting Erdogan, there has already been a marked softening of the Biden administration's tone toward the Erdogan government. This evolution began in early June, when Turkey's defense minister suggested that 500 Turkish troops now stationed in Afghanistan could remain to guard and run Hamid Karzai International Airport, assuming sufficient political, financial and logistical support from allies. The Pentagon's Kirby said two days later that U.S. officials "have had ongoing discussions with Turkish leaders about their plans for security at the airport" and that this was "a national decision that President Erdogan has to make

and we respect that." On June 10, a Taliban spokesperson insisted that Turkey should also withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan under the terms of the February 2020 deal for the pullout of U.S. forces. This weakened Erdogan's hand ahead of his June 14 meeting with Biden—their first in-person meeting since Biden took office. Keen to capitalize on Biden's predicament in Afghanistan, which includes logistical challenges as well as the frustration of NATO allies, Erdogan revised his Kabul offer during the summit to include security cooperation with Hungary and Pakistan to protect the airport. Erdogan hoped that Pakistan and Qatar, which hold sway over the Taliban and are Turkish allies, would intervene on Ankara's behalf and reverse the militant group's opposition to a Turkish military presence in the war-torn country. The Turkish government also made clear the limits of what it is willing to offer. On June 23, Turkey's defense minister stated that Ankara would not deploy additional troops to Afghanistan, besides the 500 already stationed there. Moreover, Turkey reportedly is not willing to take on any combat mission outside the airport and refuses to provide security for diplomatic convoys shuttling between Kabul's foreign missions and the airport. Meanwhile, Ankara's demands for financial and logistical support from Washington may prove excessive as when Turkey claimed from 2015 onwards that it would take over the counter-ISIS mission from the U.S.-led coalition in Syria, but refused to commit the necessary resources. There are also reports that the Turkish government is planning to deploy some 2,000 Syrian mercenaries to Afghanistan, as it did for missions in Libya and Nagorno-Karabakh. This development is likely to draw the ire of the United States and other NATO members given the accusations of war crimes the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Syria brought against them last September, including hostage-taking, cruel treatment, torture, rape and pillaging. The Taliban continues



to voice its opposition to the presence of Turkish troops. The militant group went as far to issue a warning on July 13 that it will view Turkish forces as occupiers and wage "jihad" against them. A Turkish official downplayed the threat the next day, saying Ankara did not expect the Taliban to have a "hostile attitude." The two sides have not had direct talks yet. The Taliban even backed out of a proposed April peace summit in Turkey, dealing a blow to Erdogan's ambitions of becoming a key broker in Afghanistan. Erdogan's zigzags raise questions about the soundness of Ankara's game plan. On July 19, the Turkish president raised the stakes by calling on the Taliban to "end the occupation of their brothers' soil," in yet another sign of the buildup in tensions. The next day, however, Erdogan pulled a volte-face by making his comments about having no objections to the Taliban's beliefs. Despite the flaws in his proposals, Erdogan appears to be cashing in already. Since Turkey offered to guard and run Kabul's airport, the Biden administration has toned down its criticism of Erdogan's transgressions at home and abroad. U.S. officials have refrained from condemning Ankara for its ongoing efforts to ban Turkey's second-largest opposition party, the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic

Party. Furthermore, the readouts of the June 19 and July 7 phone calls between Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his Turkish counterpart do not include any mention of ongoing U.S. concerns about Ankara's deployment of the Russian S-400 air defense system. Meanwhile, a Russian official announced on July 20 that for the delivery of the second S-400 batch, "final consultations are underway, as well as a program for technical cooperation on the project." Erdogan might have the wrong impression that his ongoing negotiations with the Biden administration have provided him with the impunity to go forward with the second installment of a weapons deal that subjected him to sanctions last December pursuant to the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. The continued presence of Turkish troops in Afghanistan may ameliorate some of the risks in Kabul, but realistically it cannot offer a lasting remedy for Afghanistan's impending problems. As U.S. officials continue their negotiations with the Erdogan government for an airport deal that may never materialize, it would be wise not to exacerbate security threats elsewhere by giving Erdogan the impression that he can enjoy impunity on account of the Afghanistan deal.

By: Stanly Johny

Evaluating India's options in Afghanistan

With the West achieved with Afghanistan, New Delhi must undertake a layered method find a political resolution

It's not a coincidence that the United States is exiting Afghanistan on the similar time that the main focus of its overseas coverage is shifting to East Asia. There's rising consensus in Washington DC that the U.S., as an alternative of staying engaged within the misplaced wars, which provides little worth to American energy, ought to now urgently put together itself for the unfolding geopolitical contest with China. America's strategic response to China's rise is its Indo-Pacific technique, which seeks to construct a bloc of Indian and Pacific Ocean democracies geared toward containing China's rise and difficult its high-functioning single occasion dictatorship. The U.S. needs India to play a key position on this bloc, which together with Australia and Japan, make up the so-called Quad grouping. However, there may be one drawback. India, in contrast to the opposite members, is the one

continental Asian energy within the Quad, which shares a contested land border with China and is weak to the geopolitical modifications within the Eurasian landmass. The U.S. might have retreated from Afghanistan as a part of a grand technique to tackle China in maritime Asia, wherein it wants India's involvement, and India may discover it tempting to hitch the ranks, particularly after China's aggression on the Line of Precise Management final yr. However, the irony is that the American withdrawal and the vacuum it leaves in Afghanistan and continental Asia generally — which is being crammed by China and Russia — is reinforcing India's identification as a continental Asian energy. Barring a short interregnum within the Nineteen Nineties, India has traditionally loved good ties with Afghanistan, which return to the 1950 Treaty of Friendship. Indian pursuits and affect suffered when the Taliban, backed by Pakistan, captured Kabul in 1996. However, India was again in motion as quickly because the Taliban have been ousted from energy after

the U.S. invasion in 2001. It has made large investments and commitments ever since, which run into over \$3 billion, and cultivated robust financial and defense ties with the Afghan authorities. Now, it's once more looking at uncertainty with the U.S. pullback having successfully modified the stability of energy in Afghanistan and the Taliban making speedy territorial good points. The U.S.'s strategic aims in Afghanistan have been restricted, as U.S. President Joe Biden himself identified earlier this month — killing Osama bin Laden and disrupting al-Qaeda networks. Defeating the Taliban and nation-building have been a part of the neoconservative ideological venture, which has evidently failed. This implies, the U.S., having met its realist aims, can abandon the Afghan authorities and exit the theatre — which is what Mr. Biden is doing. However, India cannot. It has to guard its investments, stop Afghanistan from changing into one other secure haven for anti-India terrorist teams, and in addition examine Pakistan deepening

its affect in Kabul.

Speaking with the Taliban

So, what ought to India do? One choice, as many commentators have already identified, is to carry talks with the Taliban. India has already established contacts with the Taliban in Doha. Speaking to them would permit New Delhi to hunt safety ensures from the insurgents in return for continued improvement help or different pledges (within the Nineteen Nineties, India had backed the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance) in addition to discover the potential of the Taliban's autonomy from Pakistan. At this level, speaking to the Taliban appears to be like inevitable. However, India shouldn't overlook the deep ties between Pakistan's safety institution and the Haqqani Community, a significant faction throughout the Taliban that's driving the profitable campaigns on the battlefield. The U.S. neglected it whereas combating the Taliban together with Pakistan, and it paid a heavy worth for it. There isn't a assure that India's quest for engagement with the Taliban would produce a fascinating end result. So, India ought to broad-

base its choices. Whereas speaking to the Taliban to guard its pursuits, New Delhi must also improve support to Afghanistan's professional authorities and safety forces and work with different regional powers for long-term stability within the nation.

Kabul versus the Taliban

True, the Taliban now management or contest most of Afghanistan's countryside. However nonetheless, it isn't a foregone conclusion that they might take Kabul simply. The Afghan army has some 200,000 battle-hardened troopers, together with the extremely educated particular forces. Within the cities, which noticed relative freedoms and rights in comparison with the darkish interval of the Taliban regime, the federal government, regardless of its infighting, corruption and incompetence, nonetheless instructions help. There isn't a Northern Alliance this time. The Taliban have already taken northern districts, together with Badakhshan and Takhar. The one drive that's standing as much as the Taliban is the Afghan Nationwide Protection and Safety Forces. India ought to urgently step-up... **P3**

Pakistan Reopens Afghanistan Border Crossing Held by Taliban

Pakistan on Monday reopened a major border crossing with Afghanistan that is currently under Taliban control on the Afghan side, customs officials said, allowing over 100 trucks carrying goods to cross into Afghanistan. The Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing, a key port for landlocked Afghanistan, had been closed by Pakistan for commercial traffic since fierce fighting for control of the crossing erupted between Taliban insurgents and Afghan security forces earlier this month. "Pakistan has opened its border with Afghanistan at Chaman today and resumed Afghan Transit Trade which was suspended since the last one month," Arif Kakar, a senior official of the Chaman border district,



told Reuters. He said it would remain open six days a week. Two customs officials, requesting anonymity,

told Reuters that Spin Boldak and the border town of Wesh were still under Taliban control, and they did

not know what arrangements were in place across the border or who was clearing the goods through customs.

Tajikistan...

on return of Russian border guards to the Tajik-Afghan border and does not plan to increase the number of Russian military advisors in Dushanbe due to tensions along the border with Afghanistan. He also noted that today it is impossible to specifically talk about how many Afghans seeking refuge Tajikistan can accept. "I disagree with the views of some colleagues and the government of Tajikistan that Tajikistan can accept up to 100,000 refugees from Afghanistan. We need to take into account the pandemic situation in this matter, preparedness of camps for refugees and are whether we ready for terrorists to enter our country disguised as refugees," Muhridin stressed.

UN Disappointed...

other safe, quick solutions to this problem." The Houthis want more substantial maintenance starting with the initial assessment visit. The organization said that following the first look, it would take time to order in the necessary personnel and heavy equipment to carry out more significant maintenance. The fate of the Safer is not the only threat to the port city. Heavy rains are causing flooding from Hodeidah to the traditional capital of Sanaa and the northern governorate of al-Jawf, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. On Tuesday, the rains are forecast to include the Governorate of Taiz to the south. The area includes where people displaced by conflict from other locations are sheltering. "Humanitarian agencies are working with local authorities to identify needs and to provide initial assistance," the office said. "Priorities include shelter, food, water, and essential household items." More rain and storms are expected in much of the country over the next 24 hours, including medium to heavy rainfall in flood-prone areas, including Taiz governorate, OCHA said.

PTM: Pakistan...

oppose such suicidal policies," he said. Dawar has been quite vocal against Pakistan's policy towards the Taliban and Afghanistan. "Despite losing thousands of Pakistanis, the State refuses to change its policies. Look at the way the Establishment controlled media is exaggerating Taliban achievements in Afghanistan. If Taliban are so dear to the Establishment, then why not select them for Pakistan as well," in his speech in the National assembly earlier this month. "Pakistan is once again repeating the mistakes that its military and political leaders of the past and present have lamented. Once again Pakistan is sowing the seeds in Afghanistan the fruits of which will be harvested here as well. #StopAfghanBloodshed before it's too late," he justified the allegations by the Afghan government on Pakistan fighting along with

the Taliban inside Afghanistan. Over the last two years, PTM has been hitting the streets for the constitutional rights for Pashtuns living in Pakistani tribal areas. At 35 million, Pashtuns are the largest single ethnic group in Pakistan. The organisation has been organising peaceful protests demanding greater accountability from the Pakistani army, which has "waged" the war on terrorism as an excuse to kidnap, kill and intimidate citizens living in the northwest area. "We demand an end to the Pakistani army's support for the terrorists, who are now regrouping again," he said in his last rally in January this year, "When the Pakistani regime recruits Pashtuns for war and terrorism, it considers us patriots. But when we ask for our rights, we are no longer even considered Pakistanis," Dawar told the gathering. Since Pakistani media have been ignoring them, the PTM has been extensively using social

media to get messages out. The PTM has been regarded by the Pashtuns, especially from the tribal belt, who have suffered a lot because of continued operations by the Pakistan Army in the pretext of fighting anti-state elements, as the true representative of their voice. They feel that as a social movement, PTM has been able to articulate their grievances well through peaceful sit-ins, protest marches, and enthusiastic use of all forms of media. Over the years, Pakistan has carried out several military operations against armed groups, including the Taliban in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The region, which has been merged with the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018, has long been used as a base by the Taliban, the Haqqani network and other local and international armed terror groups, including al-Qaeda.

Evaluating...

coaching Afghan forces and supply army (hardware), intelligence and logistical and monetary help in order that Kabul can proceed to defend the cities. New Delhi must also coordinate with different regional powers to help the Afghan authorities as a result of if the federal government forces crumble earlier than the Taliban, the prospects for a political settlement could be narrowed. Why ought to a profitable Taliban make concessions? Regional resolution There's a convergence of pursuits between India and three key regional gamers — China, Russia and Iran — in seeing a political settlement in Afghanistan. These three nations have already opened public, direct talks with the Taliban. However, these contacts are largely tactical in nature. For China, whose restive Xinjiang province shares a border with Afghanistan, a jihadist-oriented Taliban regime wouldn't serve its inside pursuits. Russia, which fears that instability would spill over into the previous Soviet Republics, has already moved to safe its Central Asian perimeter. For the Shia theocratic Iran, a Sunni Deobandi Taliban with which it had virtually gone to

warfare in 1998, will proceed to stay an ideological, sectarian and strategic problem. None of those nations wish to see the Taliban taking up Kabul militarily, which implies there could be a remoted Sunni Islamist regime in a rustic with fractured ethnic equations. There would neither be legitimacy for a Taliban regime nor peace in Afghanistan. India, to interrupt this deadlock, ought to take a layered method. Its speedy aim must be the security and safety of its personnel and investments. The long-term aim must be discovering a political resolution to the disaster. And if a political resolution shouldn't be achieved, it ought to search non-conventional strategies, like what it did within the Nineteen Nineties, to supply help to its allies inside Afghanistan and retain some affect. None of this may be achieved except it really works along with the regional powers. Russia has cultivated hyperlinks with the Taliban in recent times. India would want Russia's help in any type of direct engagement with the Taliban. In relation to Afghanistan, Iran is an irreplaceable nation. It shares an extended border with Afghanistan and has constructed contacts via a number of stakeholders within

the nation, particularly the ethnic minorities. The unique goal of India's Chabahar venture in Iran was to create a direct entry to Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. This direct entry is vital for India in all totally different eventualities — transfer provides to Kabul in bigger portions, retain its presence within the occasion of a civil warfare or perform covert operations if the Taliban take energy by drive. However, India, beneath strain from the U.S., slowed down on the Chabahar connectivity tasks, which lastly prompted Iran to drop India and go forward. Constructing strategic ties with Iran, regardless of the U.S.'s coverage in the direction of the Islamic Republic, is crucial for India's Afghan bets. Lastly, India ought to speak with China, with the target of discovering a political settlement and lasting stability in Afghanistan. Central to this method is India hanging the precise stability between its continental realities and the U.S.'s pivot to maritime Asia. The U.S., and the West generally, are achieved with Afghanistan. India, as one of many nations that will be impacted by the results of American withdrawal, has to work with Eurasian powers to guard its pursuits and stabilize Afghanistan.

Exchange Rates

79.70	\$	79.80
93.50	€	93.60
108.60	£	108.70
495	Rp	500
21.55	دولار	21.60
1085	₹	1090

Contact Numbers

Kabul Police -119

Kabul Ambulance - 112

Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital

0202301360

Ata Turk Hospital

0202500312

Corona call center - 166



Add a Book to Your Life

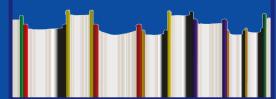
Dehbori Crossroads in front of Park Kabul

0798 98 9696, 020 250 46 52

aksosbookstore@gmail.com

www.aksosbookstore.af

Aksos Book Store



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



WAYGAL Printing Co.



If You Can Think It, We Can ink it.

+93 (0) 782 98 9696
+93 (0) 704 734 984

+93 (0) 202512626

Dehbori Crossroads in Front of Park Kabul

waygalprinting.co@gmail.com

Russia, US Implementing Agreements Reached at Geneva Summit to Some Degree: Kremlin

Moscow and Washington are, to some degree, implementing the agreements they reached at a summit held in Geneva in June, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday. According to him, the US and Russia maintain contact on cybersecurity and strategic stability. “[The agreements] are being implemented to some extent. The process got underway. It is a very complicated process and it’s too early to talk about any expectations. What is important is that there is contact. You know, it’s a very complicated matter,” the Kremlin spokesman said, commenting on the current situation around the Russian-US agreements. “Contacts on cybersecurity and strategic stability continue, all this contributes to the implementation of the



agreements reached in Geneva,” Peskov added. On July 28, Geneva will host a new round of Russian-US consultations on

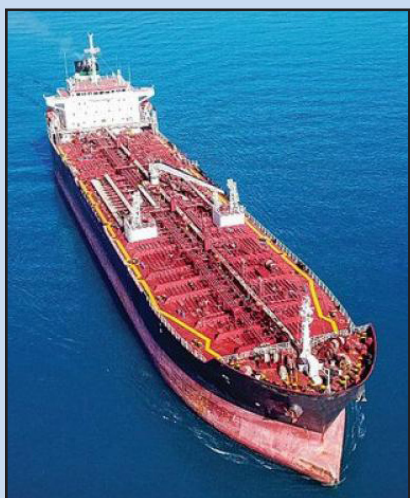
strategic stability. Russia’s delegation will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and the US one will be headed

by Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. Ryabkov told TASS earlier that Moscow planned to thoroughly discuss all aspects of strategic stability issues, assess potential risks and challenges, as well as develop a framework for future joint activities in the field. Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Joe Biden of the United States held a summit in Geneva on June 16. It was their first face-to-face meeting as heads of state and the first Russia-US summit since 2018. The two leaders said in a joint statement that the parties planned to launch comprehensive dialogue on strategic stability. In addition, Russia and the US also intend to start consultations on cybersecurity, prisoner swaps and arms control.

A look at the world

UN Disappointed Over Houthi Remarks On Oil Tanker Safer Repair

The United Nations is disappointed by Houthi rebels’ comments on the derelict tanker Safer carrying 1.1 million barrels of oil in danger of spilling, a UN spokesman said on Monday. “From what the United Nations can understand, the Houthis are demanding advance guarantees that the United Nations will complete all the potential light maintenance activities in the mission plan,” said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. “The SAFER is a very



dangerous site, and advance guarantees -- before verifying conditions onboard -- are not possible. That is also why the November 2020 agreement explicitly conditions the light maintenance activities on the safety environment we find onboard.” The rusting storage tanker has been off the port city of Hodeidah since 1988, endangering the environment and livelihoods of thousands of people along Yemen’s Red Sea coast should it leak out or there is an explosion. A leak of seawater into the engine room last year was stopped by divers applying an emergency patch. The world organization has prepared a team to board the vessel, inspect it to determine what work needs to be done and conduct emergency repairs. Still, it needs a green light from the Houthis, formally known as Ansar Allah, since they control the tanker. “For a UN-led solution, that starts with an assessment and, if it’s safe enough, some light maintenance that the UN hopes will buy a bit more time for a longer-term solution,” Haq said. “We also remain open-minded regarding any... **P3**

Equatorial Guinea to Close Its Embassy in London



Equatorial Guinea announced on Monday it will close its embassy in London following Britain’s decision to impose sanctions on the president’s son. Foreign Minister Simeon Oyono Esono made the announcement on state television, which came after London last Thursday sanctioned Teodoro Obiang Mangué, vice president of Equatorial Guinea and the president’s son, for the “misappropriation of public funds” and bribes that enabled him to lead a lavish lifestyle. “The first decision that the Malabo executive has taken is the total closure of our diplomatic headquarters in London,” the top diplomat said. “Equatorial Guinea will not accept interference in the internal affairs of the country, which violates the principle of international law,” he added. In a statement last week, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the measures targeted “individuals who have enriched themselves at the expense of their citizens.” The sanctions, which include asset freeze and ban on entry to the UK, were taken in line with the anti-corruption sanctions regime which has already punished 22 individuals from six different countries in April. Earlier, Equatorial Guinea demanded the lifting of the sanctions, calling them “unilateral and illegal.” “The unfounded sanctions imposed by the British government are justified by the manipulations, lies that some non-governmental organizations promote against the good image of Equatorial Guinea,” the government said in a statement over the weekend. Obiang reportedly spent more than \$500 million on luxury homes around the world, a private jet, cars, and a \$275,000 glove worn by Michael Jackson. Obiang’s father President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, 79, has ruled Equatorial Guinea for more than 41 years. His son is expected to succeed the president.

French Airstrikes in Mali ‘Complete Violation of International Human Rights’

French airstrikes in January at a wedding party in the West African country of Mali were “in complete violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law,” a new report said on Monday. The study, France’s Shadow War in Mali Airstrikes at the Bounti Wedding, has been carried out by Stoke-White Investigations, a unit of the UK-based Stoke White Lawyers. According to the report, contrary to France’s claim that it attacked armed



“terrorist group” Katiba Serma, which is affiliated with al-Qaeda, the attack in Bounti village as part of Operation Barkhane on Jan. 3 led to civilian deaths. The publication, citing an investigation by the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), said 22 people were killed in the attack – 19 civilians and three suspected members of Katiba Serma. Another eight civilians were injured. The victims were all men between the ages of 23 and 71, mostly residents of the village. Operation Barkhane was launched by the French military in 2014 to conduct operations against extremist armed groups in the Sahel region. Some 5,100 armed personnel are deployed in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, also known as the “G5 Sahel.” The investigation made use of interviews, open source intelligence tools and techniques along with verified sources on the ground. The unit also received the data, in consultation with Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), on 51 fatalities from civilian targeting incidents involving French forces in Mali between 2017 and 2021.



Shigal

English Academy

AMERICAN
ENGLISH FILE



Western Street of
Kabul University Close to
Dehbori Park.



+93 (0) 789 98 9696



shigal.edu@gmail.com



Shigal English Academy