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Czech Approves Program to Help Afghan Translators

The Czech government has approved a Defense Ministry program aimed at helping Afghan translators who helped Czech soldiers during the NATO mission in Afghanistan. The plan, which counts on financial support and the option of offering asylum, was given the green light at an extraordinary meeting on Friday. Prime Minister Andrej Babiš said that the programme has now been officially confirmed and will be activated as soon as possible. The program is designed to take into account the complexity of the service rendered by the individuals and to accommodate their personal preferences, Defense Minister Lubomír Metnar said. It does not endanger the security of Czech citizens and respects current legislation, according to the Ministry of Defense. Afghan translators and other support staff who helped NATO troops in Afghanistan are currently facing the threat of retaliation from advancing Taliban forces.



20 Killed, 18 Wounded in Two Separate Traffic Accidents in Laghman

Officials said Saturday 20 people including women and children were killed and 18 others wounded in two separate traffic accidents on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, Laghman provincial officials said. Asadullah Dawlatzai, spokesman for the Laghman governor confirmed the accidents and said the first one happened on Friday night when two vehicles collided in Naranj Bagh area of Qarghayi district. Eight people died and 10 were injured in this accident. According to Dawlatzai, 12 other people were killed and eight injured in another traffic incident in Qarghayi district of the province on Saturday morning. He said both accidents were caused by driver negligence.

Political Leaders Seek End to Violence as They Meet Ghani



President Ashraf Ghani attended a consultative meeting with prominent Afghan political and jihadi leaders, religious scholars, women, and civil society and youth representatives on Saturday, the Presidential Palace said. Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, former jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, former vice

president Mohammad Karim Khalili, heads of security agencies and other officials had attended the meeting. Ghani said that in this meeting, the attendants "unanimously declared their unwavering support for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity." "These leaders also declared their full support for Afghan Security and Defense Forces

in the presence of the country's security leadership. While stressing the urgency for peace, all agreed that defending Afghanistan is our fundamental right," Ghani said. A statement by the Presidential Palace reads that they agreed on efforts to an end to violence and achieve peace, defend the country, national sovereignty, national institutions,

shared values, women's rights and all other freedoms mentioned in the Constitution. They also agreed to further strengthen people's uprisings in defending the country. This comes as violence remains high in the country in the last two months. And meanwhile, the peace process has made no progress during this time.

124,800 Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine Arrive in Afghanistan

Building on a pledge of SEK 2450 million to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (Gavi COVAX AMC), the Swedish government has now donated the first of a pledge of three million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines. The first deliveries from this donation have now arrived in Afghanistan (124,800 doses) and Kyrgyzstan (228,000 doses). This comes even as the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) recorded 319 new positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and 28 deaths in the past 24 hours. The total number of cases now stand at 147,473, while the death toll is 6,736... P2



Extended Troika to Meet in Doha Next Week



The 'Extended Troika will meet in Doha in early August to review the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan. The meeting of the Extended Troika comprising Russia, China, the US and Pakistan would be held next week, a Russian diplomat said on Friday. President Vladimir Putin's Special Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov made the announcement at an online briefing in Moscow.

TASS quoted him as saying: "We are in contact over the phone with US Special Representative for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, who is now in Washington..." "Next week, we are planning to meet in Doha with him and with our Chinese and Pakistani counterparts for the next encounter of the Extended Troika," he added. Substantive consultations, both in bilateral and Extended Troika formats, would continue, he

said, adding they were ready for broader talks with international actors. In Islamabad, Foreign Office spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri underlined the importance Pakistan attached to the Troika Plus as an important forum for facilitating the Afghan peace process. "Pakistan will continue to support efforts to achieve a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan," the spokesman said in a statement.

124,800 Doses...

"The Government of Sweden is one of the original six donors to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and has steadily increased its support to global vaccination over the past 20 years. In addition to its already-substantial funding of COVAX, Sweden's dose donations will help COVAX reach some of those in urgent need of protection against COVID-19," added Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which manages the COVAX Facility and the Gavi COVAX AMC. "We welcome this act of solidarity and understanding that, when it comes to COVID-19, no-one is safe until everyone is safe."

"Sweden supports a robust multilateral response to the COVID-19 pandemic through COVAX. We have provided over USD 280 million, making Sweden the largest contributor to COVAX per capita. Sweden is also contributing to global equitable distribution of vaccines by donating at least 3 million non-earmarked doses to COVAX in 2021. COVAX, in partnership with the WHO, decides how doses are allocated, ensuring distribution in a fair and equitable manner where doses are received where they are needed the most. Decisions are based on a broad assessment of the needs, risks and readiness of participating countries. Sweden does not provide guidance where doses should be allocated," said Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden.

These doses donated by Sweden are produced by the AstraZeneca manufacturing network. Donating through COVAX helps to increase vaccine coverage, ensures that no dose goes to waste, and helps to bring an end to the acute phase of the pandemic. The design and operationalization of the COVAX dose sharing mechanism is being supported by a contribution of CAD 5 million from Canada.

The donation of doses via COVAX are enabled via tripartite agreements between Gavi, manufacturers, and donating countries. Shipments to countries are enabled by COVAX delivery partners UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Over 600 million doses have already been pledged to COVAX by a number of countries in response to short-term supply challenges and the rise of new variants. Working with donor governments to operationalize growing numbers of dose-sharing pledges, COVAX expects to see more deliveries of donated doses in the weeks and months to come

By: Wang Jin

China's Constructive Role in Afghanistan

Editor's note: Wang Jin is a research fellow of Charhar Institute in China and an associate professor from Northwest University in China. The article reflects the author's opinions and not necessarily the views of CGTN.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently visited and met with leaders and representatives of several Central Asian and Middle Eastern states, including representatives from Afghanistan's Taliban. As Afghanistan's neighbor, China can play a constructive role in facilitating peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The security situation in Afghanistan has worsened as U.S. troops continue to withdraw. The sensitive situation in Afghanistan can be linked to the U.S. withdrawal, which broke the balance of power between Afghan government forces and the Taliban. Over the past couple of months, the Taliban has made significant territorial gains and increased their claims of control to 85 percent of the country. Conflicts between the Taliban and government have immediately escalated in the wake of the withdrawal.

After the U.S. and its allies overthrew the Taliban in 2001, the U.S. became the major supporter of Afghanistan's government. Washington not only provided military assistance to Afghan security forces to combat the Taliban in southern Afghanistan, but also launched direct attacks against Taliban leaders and secured areas of strategic importance. When the U.S. started to withdraw its military presence, especially without properly informing the Afghan government, the large power vacuum left by the U.S. triggered further chaos and instabilities within the country. The U.S. withdrawal has also shaken the Afghan government's political legitimacy. After 2001, Washington backed the Afghan government and rejected the Taliban's legitimacy while the Taliban framed the Afghan government as the "U.S. puppet government" and insisted on its own legitimacy. When the U.S. reached a peace agreement with the Taliban, however, it undermined the Afghan government's legitimacy. The most recent political dialogue between the Afghan government and Taliban organized by the U.S. in Doha in mid-July is



deadlocked. The gap between the two sides is so wide that they could not reach an agreement over the political nature of the country, the arrangements of power and political structure. Without political agreement, conflicts will continue in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's domestic crisis has also started to spill over into neighboring states. Some Afghan government security forces have fled to Tajikistan, Iran and Pakistan, and the conflicts between the Taliban and Afghan security forces are being closely monitored by Afghanistan's neighbors. Against this backdrop, China should adjust its policies to Afghanistan based on the latest developments. First, China needs to maintain contact with both the Afghan government and the Taliban. Given the stalemate at the negotiating table, China must establish connections with both the Afghan government and Taliban to cultivate a conducive environment for dialogue with both sides. China is not the only power in contact with the Taliban. The Taliban attended meetings organized by Iran and Russia in recent weeks and has expressed its willingness to be in contact with any foreign government. The Taliban controls large areas in Afghanistan

and might become a dominant power in the country; it also demonstrates an open attitude toward its neighbors. Second, China needs to convey its wishes to the Taliban. China can encourage the political dialogue between the Afghan government and Taliban as part of efforts to pacify tensions in the country. Third, China needs to remind the Taliban of its red lines. Extremism and terrorism remain a crucial issue for China's national security. In the pre-2001 Taliban-dominated Afghanistan, extremists and terrorists took refuge in Afghanistan and even launched attacks against civilians in China. China needs to make sure that no matter which group is in power in Afghanistan, they need to understand China's concerns and distance themselves from terrorist groups, especially the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement. China's attitude toward Afghanistan is clear. China will continue speaking up for Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity based on the principle of "Afghan owned, Afghan led," be a responsible neighbor and friend to the Afghan people and play a constructive role in facilitating peace and stability in Afghanistan.

By: Rahimullah Farzam

Turkey's Possible Afghanistan Mission: Opportunities and Challenges

The Taliban's advance continues as US troops and NATO forces withdraw from Afghanistan. Nearly 90 of the country's 388 districts have fallen into the hands of the Taliban since US President Joe Biden announced his withdrawal plan in April.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's dismissal of the country's defense and interior ministers wasn't enough to stop the Taliban's spread and they have captured more than 20 settlements and district centers in the past week. Biden, who invited Ghani to Washington, D.C. after the central government's forces lost their position against the Taliban, promised that US support for Afghanistan would continue.

While the US and NATO countries are planning to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the security of Hamid Karzai International Airport in the capital Kabul being maintained by Turkey is on the agenda.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the issue with his

US counterpart at the last NATO summit and announced that they were close to coming to an agreement on this issue. Expressing that there is a consensus on Afghanistan, Erdogan said: "If they don't want us to leave Afghanistan, if they want [Turkish] support there, then the diplomatic, logistic and financial support that the US will give us will be of great importance".

Ensuring the security of the Kabul airport is an important goal for NATO and Western countries after the withdrawal. Kabul airport is of critical importance as an evacuation point in case of a sudden increase in violence following the full US withdrawal or if the security of the capital is compromised. Especially Western countries say that if the security of the airport is not ensured, it will not be possible for them to continue their diplomatic missions in Kabul. Australia was the first country to announce that it will be closing its embassy in the country for security reasons. If the security of the airport is

not ensured, the number of countries that will close their diplomatic missions in Afghanistan is expected to increase. Possible opportunities and risks

The possible opportunities and risks that come with Turkey's new mission in Afghanistan will depend on the scope of the mission. According to the preliminary agreement reached with the US, it's inferred that Turkey's responsibility will be limited to ensuring the security of Kabul airport and that Ankara will not participate in military operations, as it hasn't so far. As we've pointed out earlier, Kabul airport is, perhaps, Afghanistan's only gateway to the world. For this reason, the airport is of vital importance for the diplomatic missions in the country to continue their activities following the withdrawal of US and NATO forces. The safe operation of the airport is also very critical for international aid organizations to be able to deliver humanitarian aid to the country. Turkey being the only Muslim country in NATO and the close ties it

has with the Afghan government and people are the determining factors in the undertaking of this task.

Turkey's presence in Afghanistan may enable it to further strengthen its cooperation with the country in many areas, from the economy to security. Although there are allegations that the US is considering transferring the protection of the airport to a private company as an alternative to Turkey, past experiences reveal that this method is not realistic. Therefore, Turkey undertaking such a critical task is of great importance for both Ankara-Washington relations and Ankara-NATO relations. The mission that Turkey will undertake in Afghanistan will not only create an area of cooperation with the US but will also strengthen Ankara's position in NATO. In this context, Turkey-US cooperation in Afghanistan could help with overcoming some of the recent disagreements that had a big impact on Ankara-Washington relations. In addition, we mustn't ignore the view that Turkey's presence in Afghanistan would increase Ankara's influence in the region in the long run. Northern Afghanistan shares common

borders with Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, and the country opens up to a wide territory (including the Turkish world).

The geographical advantage that would come from Turkey's presence in Afghanistan may aid Ankara in developing much closer strategic relations with these countries. Such a rapprochement would be of great benefit to Turkey in terms of the common history and culture, as well as politically and economically. Especially with the opening of the Nakhchivan-Baku corridor following the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh, Turkey's connection with the Turkic world will be further strengthened by its presence in Afghanistan. Turkey has strategic relations with Pakistan as well. Turkey's presence in Afghanistan may help further strengthen its cooperation with Pakistan in many areas.

On the other hand, the geography of Afghanistan has the potential to bring many challenges for Turkey along with the new opportunities it presents. Since many countries in the region have been involved in the Afghanistan issue for years and each of them... **P3**

Two-Way Trade Between Tajikistan and Afghanistan Decreases

In a report released at a news conference in Dushanbe, the head of the Customs Service under the Government of Tajikistan, Khurshed Karimzoda noted on July 30 that a two-way trade between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and transit of goods to Tajikistan through Afghan territory have decreased dramatically due to events that have happened in northern provinces of Afghanistan over the past two months. "If in January-February, up to 50 vehicles crossed the border every day, now no more than two or three vehicles, and sometimes there is not a single vehicle for days, Tajik top customs officer said. It is to be noted that the bilateral trade between Tajikistan and Afghanistan is not so large. Thus, the bilateral trade between them last year valued at only 70.7 million U.S. dollars. This consisted of Tajikistan's exports to Afghanistan estimated at US\$69.8 million and Tajikistan's imports from Afghanistan worth US\$900,000. The bulk of this trade is not even tangible items. Fully 65 percent of Tajik exports is electricity. Tajikistan imports some volumes of citrus fruits, bananas, potatoes and sometimes carrots from

Pakistan, though. Meanwhile, even the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), said in a recent report that the United States is working on a new plan for Afghanistan's air exports. Under the plan, Afghanistan's air exports will increase by 30 per cent. This plan is designed for the years 2021 to 2025. The United States will support the modernization of Afghanistan's five main airports in Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Herat, according to a report released on Friday. According to SIGAR, the program will create about 2,000 jobs, and in addition, more investment will be made in Hamid Karzai International Airport and efforts will be made to export Afghan air to more countries in the region. Afghanistan established the first air corridor for air exports about five years ago by sending a shipment of 60 tons of agricultural products to India. The number of air corridors now stands at 40, and about five traders export goods through these corridors to several countries, including India, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, and some European countries,



such as Britain, France, and Germany. Commercial cargo planes fly from Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar Sharif airports. These goods mainly include dried fruits and vegetables, medicinal plants, precious stones, carpets and turmeric. Transportation of each kilogram of goods costs from fifty cents to two and a half US dollars, and the cost varies depending on the distance. Of the total transfer fee, only 20% is paid by the trader and the rest by the government. Since the beginning of air corridor exports, the Afghan government has

spent about 1.5 billion afghanis, or about 13.5 million dollars. Although some of this cost was said to be paid by international organizations, the Ministry of Finance says it is paid from the national budget. According to sources, more than \$170 million worth of goods have still been exported through the air corridors. A part of the SIGAR report also states that the Afghan government is struggling to survive and that it may fall to the Taliban after the completion of the US military withdrawal in August.

Turkey's...

is following different strategies that are in line with their own interests, a consensus has yet to be reached on supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan. The strategies of the countries in the region, which have been involved in the Afghanistan issue for years, have some serious differences between each other. For this reason, there will be just as many actors who will object to Turkey's presence in Afghanistan as those who won't speak up.

President Erdogan announced that they were planning on acting jointly with Pakistan in order to support peace in Afghanistan in his press statement following the NATO summit on June 14. Given the close relations between Ankara and Islamabad, Pakistan is not expected to object to Turkey's military presence in Afghanistan. However, the same cannot be said for India, Pakistan's most significant rival in the region. It's not difficult to foresee that India, who has been waging a proxy war in Afghanistan against Pakistan for years, will oppose the Islamabad-Ankara alliance in this country.

In addition, Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two traditional rivals and influential actors in the region, wouldn't want Turkey to get a new engagement in Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been closely interested in the issue during its 42-year existence, seeing Afghanistan to be inside its natural sphere of influence. Tehran, which saw the Taliban as a means for Saudi Arabia to gain influence in the region during the 1990s and supported the Northern Alliance against it, cooperated with the Taliban against the presence of another rival in Afghanistan, the US, with the changing conjuncture following the 2000s. Tehran, which currently maintains relations with both the Kabul administration and the Taliban, seeks to, at the least, consolidate its interests and sphere of influence in Afghanistan in the new period.

Russia has always been one of the countries that had certain sensitivities regarding the developments in Afghanistan. Russia is in close communication with both the central government

and the Taliban, similar to Iran. Moscow has recently hosted a series of inter-Afghan peace talks. Frequently criticizing the presence of the US and NATO in Afghanistan, Russia wouldn't want Turkey, yet another NATO member, to gain influence in this country. However, Russia, who has a very bad reputation among Afghans due to the negative past experiences of the Soviet Union, has very limited influence and means of gaining influence in Afghanistan compared to the other actors. The main security concern of China, the rising power of the region, regarding Afghanistan is the cooperation between the Taliban and the Turkistan Islamic Movement operating in the Xinjiang region. Beijing, which has improved its relations with the Taliban thanks to its closeness with Islamabad, has managed to prevent such cooperation so far. In addition, Beijing prefers a stable Afghanistan for the security of the Belt and Road Initiative, in which it has invested billions of dollars. In this context, a Turkey-Pakistan cooperation supported by China due to its closeness to Pakistan may be one of the most realistic scenarios for establishing stability and peace in Afghanistan. Challenges ahead

The challenges that Turkey will face in Afghanistan do not seem to be limited to the attitudes of the regional actors. Although Turkey has good relations with many local actors, including the Kabul administration, the Taliban is against Ankara's possible mission in Afghanistan.

Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban's Qatar Office spokesperson, said in an interview with Reuters on June 10 that "Turkey was part of NATO forces in the past 20 years, so as such, they should withdraw from Afghanistan on the basis of the Agreement we signed with the US on 29th Feb 2020."

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah

Mujahid took this statement a step further and said that Turkey would not be treated differently from the US if it were to remain in Afghanistan. Speaking to Iranian media, he said: "Turkey is a Muslim, brother country. However, since it's also a NATO member, if it remains in Afghanistan, it would not be any different from the US for us."

The Taliban's main concern over Turkey's new mission in Afghanistan is that Ankara is a NATO member. The Taliban call the 20-year armed insurgency that they've been staging "jihad against foreign forces." This discourse has a crucial role in gathering followers and legitimizing the armed struggle conducted by the Taliban.

Despite the Doha Agreement that calls for all foreign forces to leave the country, the Taliban have yet to achieve this goal. Therefore, the Taliban are concerned that the presence of Turkey in Afghanistan as part of NATO would be perceived as NATO not leaving the country. This concern is why almost any comment from the Taliban on Turkey's presence in Afghanistan has emphasized Ankara's NATO membership. Otherwise, sources close to the Taliban confirm that the organization wouldn't have a problem with Turkey being involved in the Afghanistan peace process as a Muslim country.

Despite its rapid spread in recent days, the Taliban have yet to conquer the city centers of any of the 34 cities in Afghanistan. For this reason, Turkey would not be facing the Taliban during its mission in Kabul for now. However, this doesn't mean that there are no risks involved. It's a big question mark how Turkey would protect Kabul airport, which is nearly intertwined with the city center, without military patrols. During military patrols, the Taliban can attack foreign forces with remote-controlled

bombs and bomb-laden vehicles placed on the side of the street. Turkey can contribute to establishing peace

Contrary to popular opinion, the factor that makes Ankara stand out for ensuring the security of Kabul airport is Turkey's close ties with Afghanistan and its people, rather than its military technology. Its ties with local actors, including the central government, as well as its proximity to countries that have influence on the Afghanistan issue such as Pakistan and Qatar puts Turkey in a potential mediator position between the conflicting parties in Afghanistan. Therefore, the mission that Turkey will undertake in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the US may contribute to establishing peace in this country.

The mission Turkey wants to undertake in Afghanistan must be read in the context of Ankara's historical sense of responsibility towards Kabul and its understanding of its role as a regional power. However, we shouldn't forget that Afghanistan will be a new challenge for Turkey, who has taken initiatives to increase its influence in the Eastern Mediterranean, Africa and the Caucasus in recent years. Turkey's presence in Afghanistan contains elements that would affect its relations with this country as well as the countries of the region. This region will become more important for Ankara in the coming years if Turkey gains the trust and support necessary for the continuation of its presence in Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan's security and social problems, the region being a competitive field for many regional/international powers, and the reluctance of the Taliban for Turkey's presence are factors that shouldn't be ignored.

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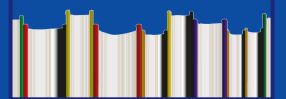
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Turkish President Thanks Russian Counterpart for Supporting Fight Against Wildfires

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the phone, Turkey's Communications Directorate said on Saturday. Erdogan thanked Putin for Russia's allocation of five firefighting aircraft and three more helicopters for supporting Turkey's fight against forest fires across the country, according to a statement. Putin also wished a speedy recovery to Turkey, the statement said. Issues that will improve Turkey-Russia relations were also discussed by the two leaders, it added. Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry also said 11 air vehicles would be sent to Turkey to fight the forest fires. At the request



of the Turkish government, a total of 11 aircraft will be sent to Turkey to put out the forest fires near residential units and tourist areas, said the ministry in a written statement. The group of air vehicles belongs to the Russian Defense Ministry and the Emergency Situations Ministry, it also noted. The country's death toll due to forest fires since July 28 rose to six. Turkish Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli earlier on Saturday noted on Twitter that the country contained most of the forest fires, saying the efforts were underway to take the remaining 10 forest fires under control.

A look at the world

India Set to Take Over UNSC Presidency on August 1

India's two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council began on January 1, 2021. In a bigger development India will take over the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on August 1 and is set to host signature events in three major areas of maritime security, peacekeeping and counterterrorism during the month. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said in a video message that "it is a singular honour for us to be presiding over the Security Council the same month when we are celebrating our 75th Independence Day." The first working day of India's Presidency will be Monday, August 2 when Tirumurti will hold a hybrid press briefing in the UN headquarters on the Council's programme of work for the month. Tirumurti will also provide a briefing for member states of the UN which are non-members of the Council on its work for the month, according to a schedule released by the UN. The August presidency will be India's first Presidency during its 2021-22 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. India will again preside over the Council in December next year, the last month of its two-year tenure.



INDIA

US Convoy Attacked in Babil Province on Friday



Local Iraqi media reported on Friday a US convoy was targeted in the south of the country in Babil province. The Telegram channel "Saberin News" reported that a US logistics convoy was targeted in the province of Babil in the south of the country on Friday. According to Iraqi sources, this is the third time in the last 24 hours that US troops are attacked. Saberin News has said that the footage of the attack was recorded on camera and will publish it as soon as it receives them from the "Qassem al-Jabarin" group. The new attack on the US troops comes a day after the Iraqi sources reported yesterday that several US convoys had been attacked in al-Diwaniyah, Babil and al-Nasiriyah provinces in the country. Dozens of attacks on US troops have been reported since spring. A piece of legislation approved in the Iraqi parliament in early 2020 after the US assassination of Resistance forces commander near Baghdad airport has called for an end to the presence of the foreign troops in the country, something that has yet to be fulfilled.

EU Regulators Fine Amazon £635 Million – But Exact Reason is Unkown

European regulators have fined Amazon 746 million euros (£635 million) for data protection violations, but will not tell the world why. Amazon said in a regulatory filing on Friday that the Luxembourg National Commission for Data Protection had issued a decision against the company earlier this month, claiming that its processing of personal data did not comply with the European Union general data protection regulation. The US tech giant said it believed the decision was without merit and that it would defend itself vigorously. Amazon has come under scrutiny by the EU before. In November, regulators filed antitrust charges against the company, accusing Amazon of using its access to data from companies that sell products on its platform to gain an unfair advantage over them. Google: While the US initially criticised the EU for targeting American companies, it has more recently started taking a tougher line on big tech as well, suing Google last year for abusing its dominance in online search and advertising. In May, a court annulled a ruling by the European Commission that a tax deal between Amazon and Luxembourg's government amounted to illegal state support. It was the latest setback to European Union efforts to tackle corporate tax avoidance. The CNPD told The Independent that it issued the decision on 15 July, 2021 but said that legally it was not allowed to communicate about individual cases and was "bound by professional secrecy." It added: "the publication of our decisions is considered as a supplementary sanction. Therefore, we cannot publish any decision before the deadline for appeals has expired."



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