

Kabul
34° / 19°



Herat
35° / 23°



Nangarhar
39° / 26°



Balkh
38° / 29°



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10 afs



Afghan Govt Ready to Share Power with Taliban: Atmar

Afghan FM Mohammad Hanif Atmar announced that the government in Afghanistan is ready to make peace and share power with the Taliban. In an interview with Izvestia newspaper, Atmar said, in case the Taliban meet certain conditions, the Afghan government is ready to make peace with the group. "We are ready to work with the Taliban. We are ready to bring them to the government. We are ready for peace and sharing of power with them," he said. Atmar added, "It is the free will of the Afghan people that determines the future of this country. Afghanistan should not be a threat to any country and there should not be a single foreign terrorist on its territory." He noted that the Afghan government is ready to accept the Taliban as part of its body, provided that the group does not support terrorism.



Afghans March against Taliban, Support Afghan Forces

Residents united against Taliban marched the streets of the western city of Herat on Monday night, chanting Allahu Akbar, "God is Great," announcing their support to the government forces and vowed to defend the province. They also celebrated the advances of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in their fight against the Taliban in southern parts of Herat city. Monday was the sixth day of the fighting in Herat. The move was widely welcomed by other Afghans across the country who created a hashtag of "Herat uprising" and "Allahu Akbar," announcing their support to the Heratis. Kabul residents took to social media and asked for a similar act in Kabul on Tuesday night. First Vice President Amrullah Saleh also welcomed the move and said... **P2**

UN: About 40 Civilians Killed in Last 24 Hrs in Helmand



The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has expressed its deep concerns over civilians' casualties in southern Helmand province as the Taliban continue offensives across the country. UNAMA said Tuesday that at least 40 civilians have been killed and 118 others wounded within the last 24 hours in clashes between

the Afghan army and the Taliban militants. "Deepening concern for Afghan civilians in Lashkargah as fighting worsens. Latest reports show 118 civilians injured and 40 killed within last 24 hours as Taliban continue the ground assault and Afghan Army attempts to repel," UNAMA tweeted. The UN has also urged an "immediate end to fighting

in urban areas." "Civilians are bearing the brunt as fighting enters Afghanistan's cities... Thousands displaced. Likely many more. Population living in fear," UNAMA said. UNAMA added that the Taliban ground offensive and Afghan National Army (ANA) airstrikes causing the most harm. "Deep concerns about indiscriminate shooting, damage to/

occupation of health facilities and civilian homes. Parties must do more to protect civilians or impact will be catastrophic," the organization stated. Meanwhile, General Sami Sadat, Commander of the Army's 215 Maiwand Corps, who is leading the battle against the Taliban in Helmand, urged Lashkargah residents to evacuate their houses as the ANDSF is planning large-scale operations to clear the city of Taliban. Sadat stated that the decision was taken in order to prevent the civilian casualties. "We are fighting against Taliban and will not leave them alive," he warned. Mohammad Wali Alizai, Helmand Governor, stated: "Pakistan is involved in Helmand clashes. The country is supporting the Taliban. I assure everyone that the situation will get normal soon." The Taliban has not commented in this regard, so far. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense said that military operations were conducted in different provinces of Afghanistan which inflicted heavy casualties to the Taliban fighters. The statement released by MoD reads that a large swathe has also been recaptured as a result of operations. As per the statement, 375... **P3**

Ministry Of Justice Seeks Legalization of Jirgas

The Ministry of Justice held a conference on Monday to discuss the draft law on conflict resolution in the jirgas. At the conference, the Minister of Justice described Afghanistan as a traditional country with jirgas and stressed on the fact that to prevent injustice, we have no choice but to legalize jirgas. Justice Minister Fazal Ahmad Manawi said at the conference that to prevent injustice in society, limits and principles should be set for these jirgas. He emphasized that the jirgas also have a special place in Islamic law. He added that in a country where people live in... **P3**



India Assumes UNSC Presidency, Afghanistan's Issue to Come in Council

India as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council assumed the presidency of the council for the month of August which has apparently concerned its biggest rival-Pakistan-over several issues including Afghanistan. Observers believe that India will most probably raise the issue of Afghanistan in this month's UNSC meetings. India is said to be set to organize three high-level meetings focusing on counter-terrorism, maritime, and the promotion of multilateralism. Diplomatic observers expect India may raise the issue of Afghanistan and will also push its narrative of being a victim of terrorism and is said to mention the name of Pakistan. Pakistan's permanent ambassador to United Nations Munir Akram has said that he will



be watchful and take steps so that India does not compromise its position on Afghanistan, terrorism, and UN reform. India is said to seek the expansion of permanent members of UNSC which its nuclear neighbor opposes. Meanwhile, spokesperson of Pakistan's Foreign Office Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri too said that they

hope India will abide by the rules and norms of governing Security Council Presidency. Indian started its two-year tenure as a UNSC non-permanent member of the council this year in January and is presiding over the mighty body of the UN for the first time. Pakistan is not among the fifteen non-permanent nations of the UNSC.

Afghans...

it was the day he was waiting for and that he is thrilled by this act. Herat governor Gen. Abdul Saboor Qani, who has served in the leadership role of the country's security agencies, on Tuesday said the security forces in the province have air support. He said that a large-scale military operation has started to clear the province of Taliban. On Monday, former mujahedeen leader and senior member of the Jamiat-e-Islami party Mohammad Ismail Khan who is leading public uprising forces in the fight against the Taliban asked Heratis to mobilize against the Taliban and assured them that the city will be defended. Clashes happened between the security forces and Taliban in southern parts of Herat on Monday, in a distance of at least 2 kilometers from the center of the city. This comes as three civilians were killed and 10 more were wounded in an explosion in the city of Herat on Monday evening, health officials said. According to security sources, the blast targeted a bus carrying civilians, and women are among the victims.

IMF Approves...

The general allocation of SDRs will become effective on Aug. 23, according to the statement. Georgieva said the IMF will also continue to engage actively with its membership to identify "viable" options for voluntary channeling of SDRs from wealthier to poorer and more vulnerable member countries to support their pandemic recovery and achieve resilient and sustainable growth. One key option is for members that have strong external positions to voluntarily channel part of their SDRs to scale up lending for low-income countries through the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), the statement noted, adding that concessional support through the PRGT is currently interest free.

By: Manoj Joshi

Limited Afghanistan Role

In the last couple of weeks, a great deal has been written on Afghanistan. The American withdrawal, the Taliban offensive, Antony Blinken's visit to New Delhi, have all shifted our minds to the developments there. The Afghan army chief, who was scheduled to visit, cancelled at the last minute, given the situation back home.

The Blinken visit would have seen intense discussions on the subject of Afghanistan. And no doubt, the theme would be the kind of role India can play in shoring up the Afghan government.

India should not see itself as a major actor, and play at best, a carefully limited role in the unfolding events in the country. We can provide technical backing to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), perhaps some financial aid to the Kabul government, that's all. In no way should we see, or allow ourselves to be set up, as competitors against Pakistan and China. That is something that geography decided, and politics, in the form of Pakistan, has confirmed. We have no land access to the country. Our limited access through Chabahar has been hampered by the state of poor relations between the US and Iran.

Estrangement with Iran and Russia has also limited American options to dependence on Pakistan for any viable Afghanistan policy. Given our own problems with Islamabad, this limits our room for manoeuvre. Washington may be working towards shaping some kind of entente between India and Pakistan, but this remains, as always, a work in progress. Any potential role India can play now is hampered by our increased closeness to Washington which impedes our ability to work in tandem with Iran and Russia to shape a common policy on Afghanistan.

There is a great deal of talk about how the Taliban have changed and how they could be brought into the governance system in the country and tamed. That is delusional. The Taliban are an ideological force who are unlikely to dilute their beliefs and ideas. It is simply not possible to fit them into the framework of a democratic government, which, for all its faults, the current government of Afghanistan is. As for their casual savagery, it is evident from reports that Reuters photographer Danish Siddiqui was either tortured to death or his remains deliberately mutilated. Either way, it provides little comfort for the unfolding future.



The Taliban have learnt their lessons in their long exile. Their diplomacy is more subtle and hence the outreach to China whose working principle is 'non interference' in the internal affairs of any country. The only thing Beijing is focused on is self-interest, which in this case is the need to insulate Xinjiang from Islamist radicalism. The Taliban may have tolerated radical movements like the al-Qaeda, the East Turkestan Liberation Front, the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, or even the LeT and the JeM, but they have little interest in spreading their own ideas abroad, simply because those have emerged from the unique Pakhtun tribal culture.

Actually, the main reason why India should avoid any major commitment in that region is that there are greater priorities and challenges back home in the subcontinent. Primarily, they relate to the Chinese assertiveness on the borders. Even if we are able to achieve a status quo ante, as of April 2020 on the Line of Actual Control with China, things are not going to be the same again. The CBM regime built up so patiently between 1993-2012 is broken and is not likely to be restored soon.

In the meantime, Beijing has made important inroads into South Asia, particularly in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. The case of Sri Lanka is well known. But Bangladesh, too, appears to be developing denser ties with China.

In a recent paper for ORF, Sumanth Samsani has noted that net FDI from China has zoomed from \$68 million in 2017, \$506 million in 2018, to \$1.159 billion in 2019.

China has been particularly active in the country's energy sector and has built several coal-based power plants, as well as bought three natural gas fields in the country. It is also financing the construction of the Payra Deep Sea port at a cost of \$10-15 billion. Among the other infrastructure projects are the eight Bangladesh-China friendship bridges, an under-river tunnel, expansion of the Sylhet airport, and various highways and rail links, including that over the Padma river. And it is, by far, the largest supplier of defence equipment to the country.

At the end of April, China's Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe toured Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In the remarks in the Dhaka leg of his visit, there was a warning on the importance of countries in the neighbourhood resisting 'powers from outside the region setting up military alliances in South Asia.' This was shortly after the first Quad summit that was held through a teleconference.

Because of its weak economy and defence industry, India has not been able to convert its geographic and economic dominance in the subcontinent into political primacy, where in the words of Ashley Tellis, India 'commands the consent, if not obedience, of its smaller neighbours.' The state of our relationships with them still depends on who is ruling the country.

In these circumstances, instead of distant Afghanistan and Central Asia, India needs to focus sharply on its ability to shape, by coercion or economic attraction, the policies of its immediate South Asian neighbours. And we are not even talking about Pakistan.

By: Arif Rahmani

Afghanistan: from Proxy wars to Global powers' Cooperation

Afghanistan has long been a country with turbulent and tempestuous history because of its geopolitical – geographical – geostrategical location. Global powers for many years since alexander the great tried to control and contain this country. The main reason was to get military and political supremacy over global and regional powers. Great Britain fought three back to back wars to get complete control of this country but eventually liberated Afghanistan in 1919 whose independence was followed by the liberation of other sub continental countries. Russia made the same attempt

in 1979 but failed to do so and left Afghanistan after nine years of military engagement. After 9/11, USA has been at war in this country for the last 20 years but there is no conclusive evidence of progress in this conflict. They finally struck a peace deal with Taliban which paves the way for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Global powers' entry and exit shows that this country has been the point of conflict – controversy – conspiracy among global powers. Afghanistan has become world's poorest country because of these wars and is faced with multiple

economical – social – political challenges. Global powers like Great Britain, Russia and USA have also suffered humanly and economically because of continuous wars and conflicts in this country. As a whole, we can say that all sides have been the losers so far in this country and there is no winner at all. From a political standpoint, we can say that Belgium also had the same geography and history. France, Germany and other European counties would fight their wars in Belgium. Years later, all European countries declared this country as a neutral state and demilitarized the whole country. Afterwards,

it became a country with advanced tourism and industry. Belgium enjoys friendly relationship with all regional and global countries. It is no longer the country of dispute and disagreement but is the country of travels, tourism, economy and education. Afghanistan can also become the country of coordination – cooperation – collaboration among regional and global powers because of its geopolitical – geographical – geostrategical location. Afghanistan can become a focal point for international trade – transit and transport and can give global and regional countries a chance to work together on multilateral plans – programs – projects. All powers should accept the

legitimate position of each other and reach a consensus – compromise – commitment because past losers will become future winners if they can get to a unified viewpoint and a logical settlement. The regional countries have a lot in common in terms of economy, social structures, political systems, religion, and national ethnicity. All these factors can be used to bring harmony and compromise among nations and will play a vital role in the development – improvement – advancement of the region. They can work more effectively and efficiently using abovementioned characteristics and features of their countries – communities – cultures. Global powers can effectively engage in... **P3**

First Shipment of Chinese Goods Arrives at Hairatan Port

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announced on Thursday that China's first shipment of commercial and transit goods arrived at the Hairatan commercial port on Sunday. The ministry said in a that the consignment included 51 containers of commercial and transit goods from China, which arrived in the country via railroad for the first time this solar year. According to the ministry, the cargo was shipped from the Chinese city of Urumqi and imported by Afghan Cargo via the railway. Officials at the port said

that the shipment includes electrical appliances, toiletries, women's, men's and children's clothing, children's toys and other commercial goods. It should be noted that the port of Hairatan is one of the connecting points of the country with Central Asia and connects Afghanistan with the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, most of the country's commercial goods currently enter Afghanistan through Uzbekistan and through the port of Hairatan.



Afghanistan...

the implementation of mega regional and national projects which can equally benefit and serve their interest. Afghanistan and the region is rich with mines and minerals, favorable for trade, has extensive land for agriculture, with chances for the industrialization of the region. Projects like TAPI, Casa 1000, and TUTAP can change the future of this region. Projects like these can create everlasting friendship – relationship – partnership among counties and can ensure the regional connectivity, commercialization, and communication because it would pave the way for the peace – progress and prosperity of the whole region. All global powers can also contribute to the implementation of these projects which can be beneficial for them and everyone in the region and even the world. All countries should reach a compromise – consensus – commitment about Afghanistan and everyone now realizes that there is no military solution for the afghan conflict. Doha agreement, Moscow meeting and Istanbul conference are showing the efforts to put an end to the afghan conflict and reach an agreeable settlement which can favor all sides. It should ultimately bring security – stability – solidarity to Afghanistan and whole region which has extensively suffered because of regular conflicts and wars. Their past was terrible and tragic but future can be fabulous and fantastic which would change the fortune of whole region and even whole world because historically this region had been the trade – transit – transport rout between east and west which had connected the whole world.

UN: About...

Taliban fighters were killed and 193 more wounded as a result of land and aerial operations. The operations were conducted in the provinces of Nuristan, Logar, Kandahar, Oruzgan, Herat, Jawzjan, Balkh, Samangan, Helmand, Kapisa, and Baghlan. In Afghan National Defense and Security Forces' latest airstrikes, 20 Taliban were killed and 12 more wounded in the

provincial capital-Lashkargah of Helmand province, reads MoD's statement. The Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid denied the group's fighters being killed in Helmand province and claimed Afghan government forces' airstrikes have targeted civilian people. The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces recently recaptured the Nijrab district of Kapisa province backed by the Taliban. Lashkargah city of

Helmand province has always been a battlefield between the ANDSF and the Taliban. The latter has entered the city and have reportedly attacked the provincial office and national police headquarter. The Afghan government has announced to conduct wide operations to clear the city from the militants and have advised the residents to evict areas where Taliban are settled.

Ministry...

masses, it is not possible to prevent jirgas. He also pointed to the importance and position of jirgas in the Qur'an and hadiths and said that there is a great emphasis on peace and resolving disputes through the jirga there. "Opposition to the jirgas is opposition to sharia," the justice minister said. "The jirga is not a sin in terms of sharia, but a virtue." He stated that completing the draft law on

resolving disputes in the jirgas is one of his responsibilities in the Ministry of Justice and said that the implementation of this law will be one of the honors of his work at the Ministry. Manawi said that the quick resolution of disputes, especially civil disputes in the jirgas, the right to go to court if justice is not provided in the jirgas, resolving the roots of issues and other issues are among the advantages of the jirgas. Members of the

Jirga Dispute Resolution Law Draft Conference (the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution, the Independent Human Rights Commission, UNAMA and the German Cooperation Office) are scheduled to review all articles of the draft law in two working days and share their corrective views on it.

Pakistan Govt...

the prosecution of some people. He said the country had not been able to come out of the FATF grey list because of political reasons and not on technical grounds, adding that when Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken a bold stance of saying "no" then "the nation will have to definitely pay the price [for it]". He asked the nation to support the prime minister for taking a bold stance and said Pakistan had already fulfilled 26 of the 27 points and would soon come out of the grey list. The question about FATF conditions had originally been asked by PPP's Shamim Ara Panhwar and it was deferred by the speaker during the assembly session in May. In a written reply to the question, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin told the

assembly that the FATF had reviewed Pakistan's progress on FATF action plan in its plenary meeting held on Feb 25. He said Pakistan had undertaken enormous work to strengthen its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) regime and address the strategic counterterrorism financing-related deficiencies. "This work has been acknowledged by the FATF in its plenary statement by taking note of the significant progress made on the entire action plan and by largely addressing 24 out of the 27 action items in the action plan," the minister said, adding: "As of now, all the 10 action items pertaining to the financial sector and border controls have been addressed." In relation to terrorism financing investigations and

prosecutions, he said six of the eight action items had been addressed, whereas for targeted financial sanctions, eight of the nine action items also stood addressed. "Pakistan has also made notable progress in the remaining three action items which also stand partially addressed. The progress on the remaining three action items is well underway with significant progress made so far and it is expected that Pakistan would complete remaining action plan items by FATF plenary of June 2021 and would become eligible to exit from grey list in accordance with FATF International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) procedures," the minister stated in his reply which had been submitted to the National Assembly Secretariat before the June 21 FATF plenary.

Exchange Rates

79.80	\$	79.90
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109.80	£	109.90
489	Rp	599
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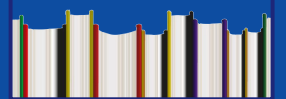
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Over 15,000 Irregular Migrants Held in Istanbul in 4 Months

Istanbul's provincial police directorate said in a statement on Tuesday that a total of 15,328 irregular migrants were held in Turkey's largest metropolis in the past four months, to be referred to the deportation process. Police teams conducted activities across Istanbul on March 26-July 31 on irregular migrants, the statement noted, referring to those who entered the country illegally or had their visa period expired. As a result of the efforts, 15,328 irregular migrants from 24 countries, including 5,365 Afghan and 2,541 Pakistani nationals, were referred to the provincial migration office in Istanbul, while the deportation process is ongoing, it added. However, "More than 100 migrants were not allowed into the territory of the Republic of Lithuania," he told reporters on Tuesday afternoon, later revising the number to around 180. On Monday, Interior Minister Agnė Bilotaitė signed a decree

allowing border guards to stop irregular migrants from crossing into Lithuania from Belarus and to direct them to border checkpoints or diplomatic representations. Commenting on the move, Bilotaitė told LRT TV on Monday evening that turning back migrants was allowed under international law, as long as it was a temporary measure and migrants were offered an alternative option to apply for asylum. Liubajevs said that no special measures were used to order migrants to turn around, without providing any more details or examples. "I really couldn't, at this stage, comment on tactical solutions since all of us need to perform our duties. As the VSAT commander, I have to ensure general command and officers accordingly have to perform their duties," he said. "In every specific case, officers in place make decisions on the use of deterrence measures or any other measures of impact," he said.



A look at the world

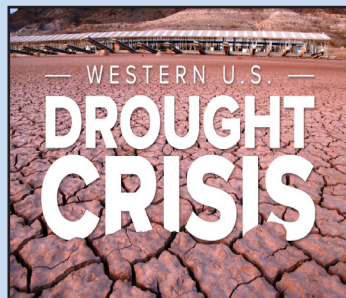
Pakistan Govt Slammed Over 'Failure' to Exit FATF Grey List

Reiterating the government's stance that the country has been in the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list merely on political grounds, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Monday declared on the floor of the National Assembly that Pakistan would not take any foreign dictation on the issue of prosecution of its nationals. "We will award sentences to individuals according to our own laws and constitution. Now, foreign dictation will not be allowed on the issue



of someone's prosecution," the minister said while responding to questions by the opposition members on behalf of Finance Minister Shaukar Tarin during the question hour when the National Assembly met after a two-day recess. The lower house of parliament, which has been in session since July 8 only to meet the constitutional requirement of holding at least 130 sittings in a parliamentary year, once again failed to take up agenda items due to lack of quorum. "The time has gone when [US national] Raymond Davis was allowed to leave the country. The time has gone when the [country's] president used to rush to the US [for help]," Mr Khan said while responding to the opposition's criticism of the government over its "failure" to bring the country out of the FATF grey list. The minister was responding to a supplementary question of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA and former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf who had asked him to tell the house about the only condition which Pakistan had not so far fulfilled to come out of the FATF grey list. Mr Khan said the only point left for implementation was regarding... **P3**

U.S. Drought Threatens World Recovery from Pandemic: Media



The devastating drought blanketing the western United States has serious implications for food availability and prices, threatening the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the South China Morning Post reported Monday. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 95 percent of the U.S. West is in drought, the largest area ever recorded. "Hot and arid conditions are set to exacerbate the threat of wildfires and water shortages this summer," the article said. Noting that the affected region accounts for about a third of U.S. agricultural output and the Federal Reserve is expected to continue to provide monetary stimulus until the economy has fully recovered, the article said, "The tight food supply and ultra-easy monetary policy have added more worry about rising prices for the commodity market." Data released in July showed that wholesale prices were also soaring, with the producer price index rising by 7.3 percent in the 12 months that ended in June, the highest since the U.S. Labor Department began measuring the index in 2010. In turn, higher U.S. interest rates could result in a sharp tightening of global financial conditions and large capital outflows from emerging and developing economies, the article said. Many also fear that supply shortages caused by the drought and the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing policy will push global commodity prices higher sharply, rendering a global recovery more difficult, it added.

IMF Approves Largest SDR Allocation in History to Boost Global Liquidity



The board of governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a new general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) equivalent to 650 billion U.S. dollars, the largest allocation in the IMF's history, in an effort to boost global liquidity amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an IMF statement released Monday. "This is a historic decision - the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said. Noting that the SDR allocation will benefit all IMF members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy, Georgieva said it will particularly help the most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The approval came just weeks after the IMF executive board approved the proposal. Final approval of the SDR allocation by the Board of Governors requires an 85-percent majority of the total voting power of all IMF members. The SDR can be exchanged among governments for freely usable currencies in times of need. The Chinese currency, renminbi, formally became the fifth currency in the SDR basket on Oct. 1, 2016, joining the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen, and the British pound... **P2**



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