



Page 2 | NATIONAL
The world and an ailing American president

Afghanistan: 19 Years of War

The NATO & US backed war on Afghanistan was launched 7th October 2001, just a month after 9/11, in what most thought would be a ...

Page 3 | ECONOMY
Onion Farmers Have High Yield, Lack Market



Kabul
22 / 8



Herat
24 / 9



Nangarhar
31 / 16



Balkh
26 / 11



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Issue No. 851

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



NSA: Afghanistan Conducting 96% Military Activities Without Foreign Support

President Ashraf Ghani addressed a conference on reforms and strengthening of the Afghan security and defence forces at the Char Chenar Palace on Tuesday. National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib said that Afghanistan's security and defence forces are currently conducting 96% of their military operations without foreign assistance and this number will increase to 100% next year.

Mohib added that the aim of the conference was to make effective use of the forces and their capabilities.

The event was attended by officials and heads from the Office of the National Security Council (NSC), the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). ... **P2**



Afghanistan Discusses Bilateral Economic Relations with Ukraine

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Oleh Urusky said they were ready to deepen relations with Afghanistan and improve their economic relations.

Urusky met Afghan Ambassador Wali Monawar, Ukrainian media reported on Monday.

"Ukraine is ready to deepen relations with Afghanistan. There is political will and significant potential for cooperation. Of course, the current level of trade between the countries is insufficient. We must set more ambitious goals and achieve higher rates of cooperation," Urusky said.

The parties discussed the current state of bilateral relations and prospects for their future development, while stressing on the need to increase trade cooperation.

Monawar said that the leadership of both nations have mutual ... **P2**

4,500 Families Displaced, U.S. Calls for Taliban to Stop Offensive in Helmand



The U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Tuesday, called on the Taliban to stop their attacks in Helmand and reduce violence around the country.

Chargé d'Affaires Ross Wilson tweeted that the Taliban's attacks were incompatible with the February agreement they signed with the U.S.

He "strongly" seconded NATO Rolute Support Commander Gen. Scott Miller's for the Taliban to reduce its violence nationwide. "I strongly second Gen. Miller's call for the Taliban to stop its offensive in Helmand and reduce its violence around the country. This violence, which is not consistent with the U.S.-Taliban agreement, leads only

to unacceptable loss of life and destruction," Wilson wrote.

He urged both sides to stop the violence so that Afghanistan can move towards a "lasting and much-needed peace for all."

The ongoing Taliban offensive has seen security forces launching operations in the Babaji area of Lashkar Gah, along with Nad Ali

district and Highway 601.

Security checkpoints have been set up in Nad Ali and along the highway, with the Afghan forces making advances and reclaiming lost territory.

The Helmand Department of Refugees and Repatriation has said that at least 4,500 families have been displaced due to the conflict in the province.

However, Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, on Monday said that while peace talks have continued in Doha, violence has increased alongside.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Zamzam Foundation, a charity to support war victims and orphans, Abdullah said that historic steps have been taken for peace.

"The talks are underway, the steps which are taken are preliminary and historic steps, but the Afghan people expect these talks to be accelerated and violence to be reduced," he said.

"Unfortunately, along with the peace talks, the violence has increased and caused concern among the people."

Abdullah also said that ... **P3**

Mol: 1,455 Criminal Cases Reported in Past Month

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said 1,455 criminal cases have been reported across Afghanistan in the past month and 2,181 people have been arrested during their investigations.

In a press conference on Monday, MoI spokesperson Tariq Arian said 146 crimes have been reported in Kabul in the past 20 days and 133 suspects have been arrested so far on charges of armed robbery, drug trafficking, kidnapping and other crimes.

Arian added that in counterinsurgency operations in the past month, they had killed nearly 889 Taliban fighters, including a well-known commander of the group, and 449 were ... **P3**



AIHRC Forms Advisory Group to Ensure Rights of War Victims During Negotiations

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) formed a 'Human Rights and Victims' Human Rights Advisory Group' to consult with the Afghan government and Taliban negotiating delegations on securing the rights of war victims and addressing their demands during the peace talks.

In a press release on Tuesday, the AIHRC said the advisory group was set up in keeping with their four mechanisms they had proposed to increase the participation of victims, experts and the public in the peace process.

"The AIHRC has always considered the Afghan peace talks as a unique opportunity to end the war, the suffering of the Afghan people, and the need to address the demands of the people, especially war victims, for human rights and broad and meaningful participation in the peace process," the statement said.



The Afghan government's negotiating team welcomed the commission's proposals to form the group which would include human rights activists and civil society members.

The AIHRC received 23 applicants and selected eight volunteers, five men and three women, who are experts in legal and civil matters.

The members are Freshta Karimi, Sayed Abdullah Ahmadi, Bibi Maryam Zarmati, Abdul Basir

Toryali, Humira Saqib, Lal Gul Lal, Abdul Wadud and Bilal Ahmad Niazi. The members of the advisory group will present their proposals to both negotiating delegations and any their questions that may arise.

They will also hold consultations with civil society networks to provide accurate, effective and expert opinions. The AIHRC will facilitate the meeting of the advisory groups with the negotiating teams during the peace talks.

NSA: Afghanistan...

The heads of various security institutions said that there had been no change in the government's fiscal policy for the forces, but called for transparency in the expenditures and mechanisms for reforms.

They said the conference would clarify the roles and responsibilities of all security institutions, improve their support and coordination, and ensure better operations. Mohib in his address, said, "You are not the holders of an office, but the protectors of Afghanistan."

He also pushed to effective measures to protect civilians and increased coordination between the people and the Afghan forces.

Ghani praised the ongoing sacrifices of the Afghan forces, and referring to the ongoing attacks in Helmand, said the security forces were able to make a difference within a "few hours" of being on-the-ground.

Afghanistan...

interest in the development of economic relations in various areas.

"Afghanistan would like to open a new page in cooperation between the countries. Currently, important areas of bilateral cooperation are education, energy, and military-technical field," Monawar said.

Work is underway on agreements with Ukraine's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with the establishment of the Export Credit Agency.

By Shahid Javed Burki

The world and an ailing American president

I have written before on how economic and political developments in the United States affect the rest of the world. This is the case in particular for countries such as Pakistan because of their geographic location. Pakistan is located in an area that is in extreme turmoil. This is not just in Afghanistan but also in India and the Middle East. Under Donald J Trump, America's 45th president, Washington has moved itself in a position from which it resents and opposes the rise of China as a major economic, political and military power. First, his open hostility towards Pakistan and now indifference towards the country has pushed Islamabad into China's orbit. But there are other developments. I write this as the Afghan government headed by President Ashraf Ghani is engaged in negotiating a peace agreement with the Taliban. The aim of this deal would be to decide on a power-sharing system of governance that would bring together the country's diverse ethnic and religious groups.

But the uncertainties surrounding these events were compounded by the handling of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic by the US President. The US moves closer to the elections scheduled to be held on November 3, at which the voters will decide whether to give another term to the incumbent Donald Trump or reject him and elect Joseph Biden, the Democrat. It is difficult to say how the outcome would be influenced by Trump's three-day stay at the Walter Reed Hospital, an army-operated facility, about a dozen miles from the White House. He was helicoptered to the facility on October 2. He had then tested positive for Covid-19, a disease caused by coronavirus that by then had claimed more than 210,000 American lives and infected well over a million people in the country.

In the campaign to-date, Trump has moved further to the right embracing white extremist groups such as QAnon and Proud Boys. His government had issued orders that officials should not undertake racial-sensitivity training that, he said at the first debate with the Democrat Biden, teaches people to "hate our country" and he is "not going to allow that". He seemed to have overruled his doctors and ordered that he should be released from the hospital. That happened on the evening of October 5. His first action on re-entering the White House was to remove his face mask and start mingling with the staff that was



waiting for his return. His behaviour was erratic. He wanted to work from the Oval Office but his handlers prevented him from leaving the living area. He also sent a tweet, one of the 50 he wrote, telling his lieutenants not to negotiate a deal with the Democrats to provide fiscal stimulus to the economy. That should be done when "I win in November". The financial markets were worried about the way the President was acting. Dow Jones Industrial average lost 600 points upon reading Trump's tweets.

On virtually every front Trump has embraced "denialism" as if wishing problems away was a substitute for policy action, said Richard Hass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who had served several Republican presidents. "The denialism is a pattern. It is pervasive. And also the fear that all this is not limited to Trump but reflects how this country has not just changed, but changed for the worse." The American people "have put their security in our hands and they are questioning that wisdom, at the same moment that our adversaries see us divided and distracted," wrote Hass. He had arrived at these conclusions after Trump won the presidency in November 2016 and expressed them in a book, *The*. On October 7, *The New York Times* wrote a long editorial endorsing Biden for the presidency. "When they go to the polls this year, voters aren't just choosing a president. They are deciding what America will be," wrote the editorial board of the newspaper

in its endorsement of Biden. The voters will be "deciding whether they favour the rule of law, how the government will help them weather the greatest economic calamity in generations, whether they want government to enable everyone to have access to healthcare, whether they consider global warming a serious threat, whether they believe that racism should be treated as a public policy problem". The editorial implied that all this would not happen if voters sent Trump back to the White House.

There were several other commentators who had serious reservations about the way Trump had governed. They were worried about what the November elections might produce for the US. One of them was Bret Stephens, a columnist for *The New York Times*. The day the President returned to the White House, the newspaper carried a powerful and angry column authored by him. "We wish him well because doing otherwise would bring us down to his level — the victory that, among his fervent loyalists and angriest critics, he has largely gained. The goal of the Trump project is the diminishment of moral expectations and the debasement of public norms. For his enemies to wish him dead would be his ultimate vindication."

Back in the living quarters of the White House, he seemed to have spent most of October 6 producing a spate of tweets, 50 in all. A number of these defied rationality. One of them was labeled "Not Correct" by Twitter, in which he had suggested that ... **P3**

By Maya Evans

Afghanistan: 19 Years of War

The NATO & US backed war on Afghanistan was launched 7th October 2001, just a month after 9/11, in what most thought would be a lightning war and a stepping stone onto the real focus, the Middle East. 19 years later and the US is still trying to extricate itself out of the longest war in its history, having failed in 2 of its three original aims: toppling the Taliban and liberating Afghan women. Perhaps the only target confidently met was the assassination of Osama Bin Laden in 2012, who was in fact hiding out in Pakistan. The overall cost of the war has been over 100,000 Afghan lives, and 3,502 NATO and US military fatalities. It has been calculated that the US has so far spent \$822 billion on the war. While no up to date calculation exists for the UK, in 2013 it was thought to have been £37 billion.

Peace talks between the Taliban, Mujaheddin, Afghan Government and US have been slowly unfolding over the last 2 years. Mainly taking place in the city of Doha, Qatar, the talks consisted predominantly of older male leaders who have been trying to kill one another for the last 30 years. The Taliban almost certainly have the upper hand, as after 19 years of fighting 40 of the richest nations on the planet, they

now control at least two thirds of the country's population, claim to have an endless supply of suicide bombers, and have most recently managed to secure a controversial deal with the US for the release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners. All along the Taliban have been confident of the long game despite the US initial 2001 promise to defeat the Taliban. Most ordinary Afghans hold out little hope for the peace talks, accusing the negotiators of being disingenuous. Kabul resident 21-year-old Naima says: "The negotiations are just a show. Afghans know those people have been involved in war for decades, that that they are now just making deals to give Afghanistan away. What the US says officially and what is done is different. If they want to wage war then they will, they are in control and they are not in the business of bringing peace."

20-year-old Imsha, also living in Kabul, noted: "I don't think the negotiations are for peace. We've had them in the past and they don't lead to peace. One sign is that when negotiations are going on people are still being killed. If they're serious about peace, then they should stop the killing." Civil society groups and young people have not been invited to the various rounds of talks in Doha, and on only one

occasion was a delegation of women invited to put their case for maintaining the hard-earned rights gained over the last 19 years. Although women's liberation was one of the three main justifications given by the US and NATO when invading Afghanistan in 2001, it is not one of the key negotiation issues for the peace agreement, instead the main concerns are around the Taliban never again hosting al Qaeda, a ceasefire, and an agreement between the Taliban and Afghan Government to share power. There is also the question as to whether the Taliban present at the peace talks in Doha represent all the various fractions of the Taliban both across Afghanistan and in Pakistan — many Afghans note they do not have the remit of all divisions, and on that basis, talks are automatically illegitimate.

So far, the Taliban have agreed to talk with the Afghan Government, a somewhat promising indication as previously the Taliban have refused to accept the legitimacy of the Afghan Government which, in their eyes, was the illegitimate puppet Government of the US. Also, a ceasefire is one of the prerequisites of the peace deal, sadly there has been no such ceasefire during the talks with attacks on civilians and civil buildings being an ... **P3**

China's trade...

year, the country's trade surplus with the U.S. totaled \$218.57 billion, customs data showed. "Trade surplus with the US also shrank, driven by China's active purchase of the US agricultural and energy products. This suggests China's good will to fulfill its commitment of the phase one trade deal," Wang told CGTN. Foreign trade up 0.7% in Q1-Q3 China saw its foreign trade rise by 0.7 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2020, with exports growing by 1.8 percent and imports falling by 0.6 percent, Chinese customs data showed. The country's foreign trade volume in goods reached

23.12 trillion yuan during the period. Exports grew to 12.71 trillion yuan and imports dropped to 10.41 trillion yuan, according to customs data. Third-quarter imports and exports increased by 7.5 percent to 8.88 trillion yuan, as China's foreign trade has been recovering quarter on quarter and is now registering positive cumulative growth. Foreign trade with ASEAN, China's largest trading partner, registered 3.38 trillion yuan, with an increase of 7.7 percent, accounting for 14.6 percent of the country's total foreign trade volume. It is followed by trade with the EU, the U.S. and Japan, up 2.9 percent, 2 percent, and 1.4 percent, respectively.

U.N. to vote...

Hillel Neuer, executive director of the watchdog group UN Watch, bristled at the fact that China, Russia and Saudi Arabia are being considered. "When these dictatorships win election to the U.N.'s highest human rights body -- with the complicity of our leaders who refused to say a word -- which

victims of their persecution will you be thinking about? Let's use this moral outrage to shine a spotlight on their victims," Neuer tweeted. UN Watch is the only U.N.-accredited watchdog. "The situation is equivalent of allowing five convicted arsonists to join the fire brigade," the group added.

Onion Farmers Have High Yield, Lack Market

Farmers in the northern Afghan province of Sar-e-Pul on Monday asked the government to help them find markets to sell their agricultural products. Currently the farmers sell their products, particularly the onions, for less than the cost of growing the crop. Farmers said this year there has been a significant rise in the onion crop in the province. They also warned they would return to growing poppy if the government does not find markets for their products. "There is a significant increase in crops, but there is no market, what should we do with all these

products," said one farmer in Sar-e-Pul Gulbuddin. "The Ministry of Agriculture should solve our problems, we do not have storage areas to keep the produce," said Obaidullah, a resident in Beshka village in Sar-e-Pul. "We travelled to Sar-e-Pul several times, now we are in Kabul and want to assess the problems," said Ghulam Sakhi Attayee, a member of the Sar-e-Pul farmers union. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock has said that the government will help the farmers. "We are planning the establishment of storage areas in Sar-e-Pul, soon



they will be operational," said Akbar Rustami, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock. Farmers in Sar-e-Pul are expected to harvest more than 7,000 metric tons

of onions this year. Farmers said that onions from neighboring countries are still flooding into to Afghanistan despite the country's own sufficient onions.

Mol: 1,455...

wounded. He added that weapons, ammunition, explosives and vehicles belonging to the Taliban were also seized by security forces during the operations. The Mol also announced that they had also arrested 15 individuals who admitted to being affiliated with the Taliban and the Haqqani Network, and were part of the targeted killing network. In addition, they arrested a group of Taliban bomb-makers, and have discovered and defused 51 landmines in the past 20 days in Kabul. Arian assured that the ministry has stepped up its efforts to curb criminal activities and targeted assassinations.

The world and...

Covid-19 as a disease was not more serious than the annual flu. Several people who watched Trump behaving in the day he came back from the military hospital wondered whether he was acting under the influence of a powerful steroid he had been administered. The virus continued to take its toll on including those who were close to Trump. The day the President came back to the White House it was announced that Stephen Miller, his senior advisor, had tested positive for Covid-19. Miller was responsible for a number of moves by the Trump presidency aimed at "Making America Great Again" by keeping the country white and Christian. He had drafted the presidential order that banned the entry of people from seven Muslim-majority countries. He was behind the move to keep out Central Americans from coming into the US to escape violence in their own countries. He had adopted the policy of separating children from their parents while the long process of granting asylum worked its way through the complicated system. He had Trump reduce the number of refugees allowed into the country even when they had risked their lives to help American troops in places such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Under Trump, America had become less caring and more unkind. It is clear that the world would need to hold its breath while the US approaches November 3, 2020. Even the loyal Republican Party seemed to be unraveling. According to presidential historian Douglas Brinkley, the members of the party are "seeking to rid themselves of Trump at this juncture but realize they can't quite yet. But they know that his name is no longer kinetic on the campaign trail".

Afghanistan: 19...

almost everyday occurrence. President Trump has made it clear that he wants to remove US troops from Afghanistan, though it is likely the US will want to maintain a foothold in the country by way of US military bases, and the mining rights being opened up to US corporations, as discussed by President Trump and Ghani in September 2017; at that point, Trump described US contracts as payment for propping up the Ghani Government. Afghanistan resources make it potentially one of the richest mining regions in the world. A joint study by The Pentagon and the United States Geological Survey in 2011 estimated \$1 trillion of untapped minerals including gold, copper, uranium, cobalt and zinc. It is probably no coincidence that the US special peace envoy at the talks is Zalmay Khalilzad, former consultant for the RAND corporation, where he advised on the proposed trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline. Although Trump wants to reduce the remaining 12,000 US troops down to 4,000 by the end of the year, it is unlikely the US will withdraw from their remaining 5 military bases still ensconced in the country; the advantage of having a foothold in a country which borders its main rival China will be near impossible to relinquish. The main bargaining piece for the US is the threat to withdraw aid, as well as the potential to drop bombs - Trump has already shown willingness to go in hard and fast, dropping 'the mother of all bombs' on Nangahar in 2017, the biggest non-nuclear bomb ever dropped on a

nation. For Trump, a single large bomb or intense carpet aerial bombing will be his probable course of action if talks fail to go his way, a tactic that would also shore up his presidential campaign which is being fought on the lines of a 'cultural war', whipping up racism mixed with white nationalism. Despite the UN call for an international ceasefire during the Covid 19 lockdown, fighting has continued in Afghanistan. The disease is known to have infected to date 39,693 and killed 1,472 people since the first confirmed case on the 27th February. Four decades of conflict have undermined a barely functioning health service, leaving the old especially vulnerable to the disease. After the virus first emerged in Afghanistan, the Taliban released a statement saying they considered the disease to be both a divine punishment for human wrongdoing and a divine test of human patience. With 4 million people internally displaced, Covid 19 will undoubtedly have a devastating impact on refugees in particular. Dire living conditions within camps make it almost impossible for internally displaced people to protect themselves, with impractical social distancing in a one room mud hut, normally home to at least 8 people, and hand washing a huge challenge. Drinking water and food are in scarce supply. According to the UNHCR there are 2.5 million registered refugees from Afghanistan globally, making them the second biggest population of

displaced peoples in the world, yet it's the official policy of many EU countries (Britain included) to forcibly deport Afghans back to Kabul, in the full knowledge that Afghanistan has been classified the "world's least peaceful country". In recent years forcible deportations from EU countries have tripled under the "Joint Way Forward" policy. According to leaked documents, the EU were fully aware of the dangers for Afghan Asylum seekers. In 2018 UNAMA documented the highest ever recorded civilian deaths which included 11,000 casualties, 3,804 deaths and 7,189 injuries. The Afghan Government agreed with the EU to receive deportees out of fear that a lack of cooperation would lead to aid being cut. This weekend is part of a national action to mark solidarity with refugees and migrants who are currently facing the hostile environment of harsh British policy and treatment. It comes within days of our Home Secretary Preti Patel having suggested we dump refugees and undocumented migrants trying to cross the channel on Ascension Island, to imprison people on disused ferries, to build "marine fences" across the channel, and to deploy water cannons to make huge waves to swamp their boats. Britain wholeheartedly committed to the war on Afghanistan in 2001, and now it dodges its international responsibilities to safeguard people fleeing for their lives. Britain should instead admit culpability for conditions forcing people to become displaced and pay reparations for the suffering its war has caused.

4,500 Families...

an "acceptable" peace will be one in which the rights of different strata of the country, ethnic groups and minorities are maintained. On the process of foreign troop withdrawal, Abdullah said, "The leadership of each country's system decides according to its own plan and strategy, but in any case the international community is firmly committed to the stable future of Afghanistan, and lasting relations with partner

countries will continue." Taliban's continued offensive in Helmand The New York Times (NYT) spoke to Rohullah Ahmadzai, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), who said that in the past 24 hours, the Taliban carried out attacks in 20 of the country's 34 provinces. NYT says that the Taliban attacks on Lashkar Gah and its surrounding areas in Helmand, is in-line with strategy to launch a large-

scale attack towards the end of the "fighting season" so that morale of their fighters remain high during the winter months. "The run for a provincial capital amid peace talks suggested that the Taliban still see military bullying as their most effective negotiating tactic," the NYT reports. The attack also appeared to test how far the U.S. troops, who are in the midst of a drawdown, will go to defend their Afghan allies.

Exchange Rates

76.75	\$	76.85
89.6	€	89.7
98.3	£	98.4
471	Rp.	472
20.7	دولار	20.8
1030	₹	1040

Contact Numbers

- Kabul Police -119
- Kabul Ambulance - 112
- Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital
0202301360
- Ata Turk Hospital
0202500312
- Corona call center - 166



WAYGAL Printing Co.

**If You Can Think It,
We Can Ink it.**

OFFSET PRINTING

- Logo Design
- Business Card
- Books
- Letterheads
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- File Folders
- Brochure
- Flyers
- Calendars
- Posters
- other...

+93 (0) 704 734 984
+93 (0) 782 98 9696
+93 (0) 202512626
Dehbori Crossroads in
Front of Park Kabul
waygalprinting.co@gmail.com

Heart of Asia

Chief Editor: M. Hamid Hamdard
Reporters: Safiullah Nasary, Shafiq Amirzay,
Jawad Temori & Hameedullah Hamidi
Graphic & Design: Arman
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

India, China military officials hold 'positive' talks on troop pullback

Indian and Chinese military commanders held "positive, constructive" discussions on disengaging troops locked in a months-long standoff at their disputed Himalayan border, the two sides said in a joint statement on Tuesday. Diplomats and military officials have held several rounds of talks to pull back from the brink after a clash erupted between border troops in June in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

On Monday, senior commanders held a seventh round of talks at Chushul in the western Himalayas that went on for more than 10 hours, officials said.

"The two sides had a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas," the statement released by the Indian government said.

"They were of the view that these discussions

were positive, constructive and had enhanced understanding of each other's positions," the joint statement said.

The Line of Actual Control is the de facto border where troops are ranged against each other. The trouble began early in April when New Delhi says Chinese troops intruded deep into India's side of the LAC in the Ladakh sector which adjoins the Tibetan plateau.

Beijing claimed the area to be its territory and blamed Indian road construction activity in the area for destabilising the situation.

So far there has been no sign of a troop pullback even though winter is approaching and the area is considered uninhabitable.

"Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible," the two sides said in the joint statement.



A look at the world

China's trade with major economies accelerates in September

China on Tuesday reported robust growth in foreign trade in September, with exports and imports in U.S. dollar terms rising 9.9 percent and 13.2 percent respectively from a year earlier, as demand from trading partners recovered strongly after the lift of coronavirus restrictions.

"China's exports and imports have consistently beaten the market expectation. Trade in September accelerated from previous month," Wang Dan, chief economist with Hang Seng Bank China, told CGTN.

Exports in September were extended from a solid increase of 9.5 percent in August. The strong gains were broadly in line with the



Reuters forecast of 10 percent.

The country's imports in September rose at a fastest pace this year, returning to growth from a drop of 2.1 percent in August and much better than the Reuters prediction of a 0.3-percent increase.

Wang said that imports surged in September, mostly in raw materials and other industrial inputs, indicated strong momentum in domestic industrial production.

"The overall trade performance seems to suggest that China's dual circulation strategy has withstood the test," she added. Wang said demand from US, Europe and ASEAN all recovered strongly, not only in medical devices, but also in electronics and electric machinery.

She explained, "This is partly due to the furlough scheme in western countries that have supported workers' income and spending. We expect the foreign demand to stay strong in the fourth quarter with the holiday season boost."

Trade surplus with U.S. narrows
China's trade surplus with the U.S. stood at \$30.75 billion in September, narrowing down from a surplus at \$34.24 billion in August, according to Chinese customs data. For the first nine months of the ... **P2**

U.N. to vote on adding Russia, China, Saudi Arabia to Human Rights Council



The United Nations General Assembly is expected Tuesday to vote on adding China, Russia and Saudi Arabia to its Human Rights Council, a matter that's drawn significant opposition from critics who say those nations are some of the worst violators.

The global body must fill 15 openings on the 47-nation member Human Rights Council, each of which will begin serving three-year terms starting in 2021.

The council fills 15 seats in five regions -- Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America-Caribbean and Western Europe--for each three-year rotation period. Russia, China and Saudi Arabia are vying for four seats in their respective regions with Pakistan, Cuba, Nepal and Uzbekistan. Russia hasn't been part of the Eastern European group since 2016, while China and Saudi Arabia were part of the Asia-Pacific group that served from 2017 through 2019. The United States, which has wavered multiple times in the past on maintaining a seat on the HRC, withdrew in 2018 under President Donald Trump, accusing the council of being "hypocritical and self-serving."

Many in the human rights community have complained about China's treatment of the Muslim-minority population in its northwestern Xinjiang region, among other purported abuses.

Russia is under scrutiny over the recent poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the 2018 poisoning of a former spy and his adult daughter and its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Saudi Arabia is under suspicion for the death of dissident writer Jamal Khashoggi, a frequent critic of the Saudi royal family. Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in Turkey in 2018, but his body has not been recovered.

Human Rights Watch Director Louis Charbonneau called on the general assembly to rethink its consideration of the nations. "Serial rights abusers should not be rewarded with seats on the Human Rights Council," Charbonneau said. ... **P2**

UN urges Libyan rivals to prioritize 'national interest' in talks

The United Nations' Libya envoy has urged rival Libyan parties to place the national interest before political ambitions when they meet next month for talks aimed at ending nearly 10 years of civil war.

The North African country is dominated by armed groups, riven by local conflicts and divided between two bitterly opposed administrations: a UN-recognised unity government based in Tripoli and an eastern-based rival backed by renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar.

Neighbouring Tunisia is set to host talks in early November, which will include representatives from civil society, tribesmen, political leaders, and members of bodies representing both administrations.

"What we want to see in terms of



participation is people who are not there for their own political aspirations, but for their country," said UN envoy Stephanie Williams on Monday, after meeting Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Asked whether Haftar or unity government chief Fayez al-Sarraj would be present, she said participants would be able to take part on the condition "that they remove themselves from consideration in high government positions".

This included membership of the key Presidential Council, the prime minister's job and ministerial posts, she told AFP news agency.

The talks are intended to prepare for national elections, she added.

Before November's meeting, the UN mission in Libya plans to bring together participants for preparatory video conferences, starting on October 26.

Also, face-to-face talks between delegations of a joint military commission made up of five officers from each side are to be held in Geneva starting on October 19.

Recent weeks have witnessed a flurry of diplomatic activity, with Egypt and Morocco hosting talks that saw the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and the eastern House of Representatives (HoR) administration agree on an electoral calendar to organise elections within 18 months and demilitarise the strategic city of Sirte.



Shigal English Academy

شیگل انگلیش اکاډمی

Easy English Learning



Dehbori, 2nd Street Behind Park, 3rd District, Kabul



+93 (0) 789 98 9696



shigal.edu@gmail.com



Shigal English Academy



www.shigal.edu.af