



Kabul
19 / 5



Herat
23 / 5



Nangarhar
30 / 15



Balkh
24 / 11



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Issue No. 858

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



Atmar: Afghanistan Committed to One-China Policy

Acting Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar met Chinese Ambassador Wang Yu on Sunday afternoon and talked about the significance of China's role in the region and for the peace process.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said that Atmar talked of Beijing's cordial relations with Kabul and their support for the peace talks. He praised China's involvement and said it was "significant and effective" in garnering regional and international support in calling for a reduction of violence and a humanitarian ceasefire. Talking about the significance of China's role, Atmar assured the ambassador of Afghanistan's support and commitment to the Once-China policy.

The Chinese ambassador reaffirmed their support for an Afghan-led and owned peace talks. ... **P2**



Backing efforts for peace in Afghanistan: Imran Khan

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's stout support for ending four decades of conflict in Afghanistan.

"After Afghanistan, Pakistan has suffered the most due to the conflict across the border," Khan told a two-day seminar for exploring opportunities to boost investment and trade between the neighbours.

A 17-member Afghan parliamentary delegation, led by Wolesi Jirga Speaker Rahmani, is participating in the Pakistan-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Forum 2020.

"What history has shown us is that foreign interference has never been successful in Afghanistan; the people need to make their own decisions," Khan told the inaugural session of the event in Islamabad.

"Pakistan will work with the Afghan government and will keep the bilateral relationship strong," promised ... **P2**

Bangladeshi Ulema, Scholars Call Afghanistan's Current War 'Haram'



Bangladeshi scholars, elders and the muftis called on both warring parties in Afghanistan to stop the killing of Muslims and innocent people as the violence was against shariah texts and Islamic teachings. The scholars attended the session on "Call for Peace in Afghanistan" held on Sunday in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka.

They issued a statement emphasising the prohibition of war and the killing of Muslims and innocent people in Afghanistan. They also expressed their wholehearted support for the peace talks in Doha.

Calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the scholars said both sides were "Muslims and

brothers" and requested an end to the ongoing attacks for them to build trust.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its gratitude for the issuance of the declaration of the fatwa by the scholars and reiterated the reduction of violence and ceasefire as an important condition for the success of the

peace talks.

However, over 2,500 religious scholars said there was no legitimate reason for the war in Afghanistan and called for both parties to stop the struggle for power and the killing of more Afghans.

At a gathering in the Loya Jirga hall in Kabul on Sunday, the ulema from various provinces declared their support for the peace process and said that further violence would destroy the trust in the negotiations.

"Discuss your disputes on the negotiating table," said one of the attendees at the gathering.

They called on the Taliban and the Afghan government to reach an agreement on the form of Islamic government and the withdrawal of foreign troops as soon as possible, and to move on to other issues.

Another scholar called the shedding of Muslim blood, against the religion and warned that the person will "go to hell."

Shaharзад Akbar, chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said the Afghan people have been demanding an end to the ... **P3**

Herat Governor Among 21 Charged for Embezzling COVID-19 Relief Budget

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) announced that 21 people in Herat, including the current governor, have been charged with embezzlement of 20 million AFN from the COVID-19 budget. Jamshid Rasouli, spokesperson for the AGO, said they had completed investigations into the suspected corruption in the usage of the COVID-19 relief budget in Herat and the case has now been referred for a trial.

He added that the governor of Herat, three members of the Provincial Council, the head of Public Health, the deputy and representative of Asia Pharma, head of budget department of Herat province, are among those standing trial. The court has been asked to determine the punishment for the individuals in accordance with the Penal Code.



U.S. Forces reject accusations of violating Doha agreement after Wardak airstrike

Colonel Sonny Leggett, spokesman for U.S. Forces Afghanistan, on Monday rejected claims by the Taliban that Sunday night's airstrike against the insurgent group was in contravention of the Doha agreement.

In a post on Twitter Leggett said: "USFOR-A conducted a targeted strike in Nerkh, Wardak last night- in defense of the ANDSF and in accordance with the U.S.-TB Agreement-killing 5 Taliban fighters.

"We reject the allegations of violating the agreement and of killing innocent Afghans," he said.

This comes after the Taliban accused the U.S. earlier Monday of repeatedly violating the agreement which was signed



in February in Doha.

The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted Monday: "In recurrent violation of the Doha agreement, American invaders carried out a drone strike in Durrani area of Nerkh district Wardak dusk time Sunday resulting in 3 innocent children martyred."

The Ministry of Defense meanwhile issued a statement saying at least 26 Taliban members had been killed and four others wounded in clashes in Sayedabad and Nima Wardak districts in the province.

The MoD did not however mention anything about a U.S. airstrike.

Backing efforts...

the prime minister, the chief guest at the inaugural gathering. About fears that India might use Afghanistan to destabilise Pakistan, he said his administration would respect the wishes of Afghans. He went on to say the future of the South Asian region was linked to the relationship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Trade was the only way to bring prosperity to both countries, believed the cricketer-turned politician, who has long emphasised on a political settlement in Afghanistan. Lawmakers, ministers and businessmen from the two countries are attending the two-day seminar. USAID Pakistan has also extended support for organising the seminar. Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade and investment opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture, food and livestock sectors will be discussed by speakers.

Atmar: Afghanistan...

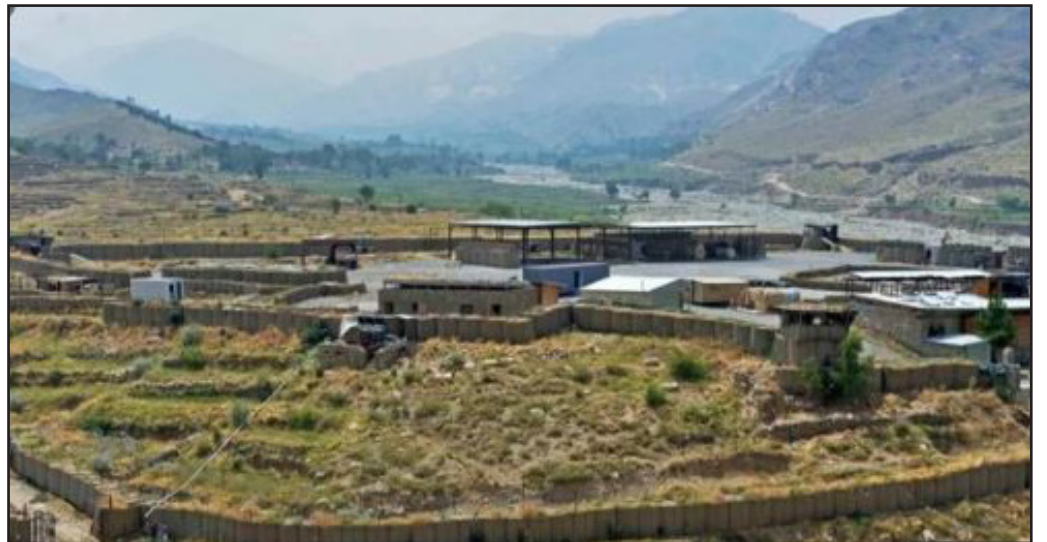
Atmar also held a farewell meeting with outgoing Canadian envoy Dave Metcalfe and commended his efforts in strengthening ties between the two countries. He highlighted Canada's friendly relations, support for the peace process and cooperation with Afghanistan over the past 19 years. Metcalfe called the continued cooperation and maintaining and strengthening of the current relations beneficial for the people and the governments of the two countries.

By JOSEPH J. COLLINS

America's botched exit from Afghanistan

The Trump administration has fallen prey to the pitfalls of ending long wars. In the American experience, exit strategies begin as conditions-based plans but quickly become irresistible departure schedules. To hasten withdrawal from war-torn Afghanistan, the United States has signed an unenforceable agreement with the Taliban and left our Afghan allies holding the bag. As Washington insiders debate how to accelerate withdrawal, the Taliban has upped the ante on the battlefield and offered no concessions. In 2017, the new Trump administration South Asia strategy featured a troop increase in Afghanistan and a harder line toward Pakistan. Approximately 14,000 U.S. troops, backed by more than 3,000 from coalition nations, provided advice, training and air support, stiffening the spine of 270,000 Afghan police and military personnel. These forces have been hard-pressed to hold off 60,000 Taliban insurgents, backed by Pakistan, drug money, Iran and Russia. Since 2014, more than 45,000 Afghan soldiers and police personnel have perished in the fight.

Discouraged by the lack of progress and the Taliban's refusal to negotiate with Kabul while U.S. troops were in the country, the United States began to negotiate directly with the Taliban without the direct participation of the Kabul government. In February 2020, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad signed the agreement with the Taliban to withdraw U.S. forces in 14 months (by May 2021) and support a prisoner exchange. The Taliban promised negotiations with Kabul, a ceasefire, and to turn its back on al Qaeda, their old friends. The Taliban agreed not to attack U.S. forces. The government in Kabul was not a party to the agreement, but it recognized the withdrawal and received a promise of continued U.S. support. The Taliban are continuing to fight Afghan forces, who are responding with the help of coalition air power. No ceasefire is in sight. Despite spirited fighting, the Trump administration apparently has agreed to reduce U.S. force levels to 2,500 — roughly half of what's there now — by the end of President Trump's current term of office. Trump's former national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, characterized the overall agreement as a "travesty" and a Munich-like appeasement. The agreement is so weak that the



Taliban recently complained about "excessive" U.S. airstrikes designed to block a major Taliban attack on the capital of Helmand Province.

The next administration — red or blue — needs a rapid reassessment of where it is in Afghanistan. The United States has entered into an agreement that exchanged reductions in our troop presence — our strongest lever — for hollow promises from a group that is pursuing military victory, not a ceasefire and good faith negotiations. The Doha peace talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban have become a sham. As the U.S. presidential campaign winds down, senior officials in the United States continue to ignore the worsening conditions on the battlefield. The next administration needs first to consider its goals. Neither a troop withdrawal nor a quick negotiated settlement are goals per se. The main U.S. goal is to prevent or block terrorist safe-havens and further regional stability in an area with multiple nuclear powers. To do this, we need a decent government in Kabul. We have to continue to support that government, give aid to its police and military forces, and prevent its overthrow by any means necessary. Kabul must be pressed to reduce corruption, and the Taliban threatened to cease attacks — or else. Russia, Pakistan and Iran must be pushed into supporting

peace and stability. Muscle and diplomacy, applied in equal measure, should be the key instruments. Stopping U.S. and coalition troop withdrawals should be the first signal that the United States won't be played for a fool.

Other subsidiary objectives of a new policy include fostering respect for human rights, and in particular women's rights, which have made slow but significant progress under former Afghan President Karzai and President Ghani. The Taliban had a heinous persecution of women and that policy has continued during the war. A female judge, hiding from Taliban threats in 2019, said: "A Talib is a Talib. ... They have proven what type of people they are, what their ideology is. And if they return with the same ideology, everything will be the same again."

A related subsidiary objective should be to maintain progress in Afghan public health, education and telecommunications. In the two decades since the departure of the Taliban, Afghan society has begun to modernize rapidly. A Taliban-only regime could retard or snuff out that progress. The West has to support this pillar of stability, using the financial heft of international organizations, such as the World Bank, to help carry the load.

Critics of slowing the withdrawal will say ... **P3**

by Binoy Kampmark

Impunity and Carefree Violence: Australia's Special Forces in Afghanistan

In 2016, Australian Major General Jeff Sengelman approached the then chief of the Australian army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell with a nagging worry. The concern lay in allegations that Australian special forces had committed various war crimes in Afghanistan. Sengelman was then special forces commander; Campbell was chief of the army. Sociologist Samantha Crompvoets was duly commissioned to write a report on "Special Operations Command Culture interactions". It was leaked in 2018, and claimed that Australia's special forces had engaged in the "unsanctioned and illegal application of violence on operations" aided by a timorous leadership and perception of impunity. Campbell duly tasked the inspector-general of

the Australian Defence Force, James Gaynor, with the role of investigating war crimes allegations connected with the Special Operations Task Group during stints in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2016. Paul Brereton, a New South Wales Supreme Court judge and major general in the Army Reserve, was given the task of leading the inquiry. For four years, it has been conducted under conditions of utmost secrecy. The instrument directing the inquiry, and the terms of reference of the inquiry, remain unpublished. The report is expected to be completed by year's end, though some preparations for softening the blow are already being made. The IGADF annual report of 2018-9, tabled in parliament in February, at least alludes to the fact that

more than 338 witnesses have been examined since March 2016, noting "55 separate incidents or issues under inquiry covering a range of alleged breaches of the Law of Armed Conflict, predominantly unlawful killings of persons who were non-combatants or were no longer combatants, but also 'cruel treatment' of such persons." Exclusions are already clear: decisions made during the "heat of battle," for instance, are of no concern. Focus, instead, "is on the treatment of persons who were clearly non-combatants or who were no longer combatants."

In an interview with journalist Stan Grant in an online conference series, Defence Minister Linda Reynolds was not optimistic about what would be unearthed. ... **P3**

Japan will...

nuclear plant restarts. About 40% of Japan's carbon emissions come from power companies, and they must use more renewable sources of energy while stepping up development of technologies using hydrogen, ammonia and other carbon-free resources, experts say. Suga said he will speed up research and development of key technologies such as next generation solar batteries and carbon recycling. He also promised to reduce Japan's reliance on coal-fired energy by promoting conservation and maximizing renewables, while promoting nuclear energy. Environmental groups welcomed his announcement. "Carbon neutrality is no longer a lofty, faraway dream, but a necessary commitment," in line with international climate change agreements, Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, said in a statement. In the short term, Japan's top priority is to curb the pandemic while reviving the economy, Suga said. Turning to Japan's biggest long-term problem, a low birthrate and shrinking population, Suga reiterated a pledge to provide insurance coverage for infertility treatments.

He also said he would promote paternity leaves for working fathers to ease the burden of child-rearing and home-making on working mothers. He promised more help for single-parent households, more than half of which are living in poverty. Among other highlights, Suga said: —The Japan-US alliance, a cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and security, is key to achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" regional economic and security framework to counter China's sway. —Japan, meanwhile, seeks to have stable ties and cooperate with China. —Japan is open to meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to resolve conflicts over abductions of Japanese citizens years ago and wartime compensation and to normalize diplomacy with Pyongyang. —South Korea is "an extremely important neighbour," but it should drop its demands for compensation over Korean wartime forced laborers to restore "healthy" bilateral relations. Since taking office Suga has crafted a populist and pragmatic image, winning public support for his relatively modest background and low-profile, hardworking

style. He has ordered his Cabinet to step up implementation of pet projects such as lowering cellphone rates and accelerating use of online government, business and medical services. "I will break administrative divisions, vested interests and bad precedents to push for reforms," Suga said. But he also said Japanese should try to help themselves before looking to the government for assistance, in line with what experts say is a conservative stance that is unsympathetic to the disadvantaged. Suga is best known for his effectiveness in corralling powerful bureaucrats to force through Abe's policies. His hardline approach has sometimes drawn criticism. Earlier this month, he was accused of seeking to muzzle dissent by choosing not to appoint six professors out of a slate of 105 to the state-funded Science Council of Japan. The flap triggered massive protests from academics and took the public support rating for his Cabinet down about 10 points to just above 50%. Opposition lawmakers are expected to raise the issue during the 41-day session through December 5.

Pak-Afghan Trade, Investment Forum Launched

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday has welcomed the formation of the Pak-Afghan Trade and Investment Forum and hoped neighboring nations will work together.

"Whatever type of government Afghan people want, whoever they choose, it will be their own decision, Pakistan will work with that government," Pakistani Prime Minister Said.

Khan added that peace in Afghanistan is important for the promotion of trade and economic activities in the region which will bring prosperity and provide job opportunities to the people.

Reports quoted the Prime Minister saying, "I would like to assure you that our government, our army, our intelligence agency is making their best efforts for reduction of violence, ceasefire, and peace in Afghanistan." "our government has decided to strengthen relations with Afghanistan, no matter who is in power", Khan said during the inauguration of the trade



forum.

According to Radio Pakistan, Khan is concerned that India could use Afghan soil to destabilize Pakistan.

Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan's special envoy to Afghanistan, said the two-day meeting would focus on bilateral cooperation and trade facilitation between the two countries.

Afghanistan is represented by Speaker

of the parliament, Mir Rahman Rahmani, Minister of Commerce, and more than five high Afghan governmental officials.

This comes as the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering FATF ruled against taking Pakistan off the grey list.

The decision was taken on Friday during the virtual plenary meeting of

the FATF.

Despite many efforts, Pakistan has not been able to get out of the grey list, according to FATF. Pakistan had not met the conditions for removing the country from the gray list and was once again on the list.

FATF said in a statement that Pakistan had complied with 21 of its 28 conditions.

America's botched...

that the recommendations here are just more nation building and an effort to prolong an endless war that has cost a trillion dollars and nearly 2,500 U.S. lives. Nothing could be farther from the truth. A precipitous U.S. withdrawal will accelerate the war, and could push Afghanistan into a multi-party civil war, creating another Syria, a major bonus for the terrorist groups that are already in the Hindu Kush. As for nation building, it is happening and Afghan hands are doing the building. A Taliban victory risks a greater war, socioeconomic damage, and even more bloodshed.

Afghanistan once again stands at a crossroads. The next U.S. president will decide whether to increase support for Kabul, or withdraw all of our troops and leave Afghan forces to fight on alone against the Taliban and its ugly foreign backers, all of whom would delight in our failure there. A precipitous exit from Afghanistan is not in America's interests.

Joseph J. Collins is a retired Army colonel and Department of Defense civilian. From 2001-04, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations. For over 25 years, he taught strategy and international relations at West Point, the National War College, and Georgetown's Security Studies Program.

Bangladeshi Ulama,...

violence and a ceasefire in all parts of the country but the Taliban refuse to heed their call. "The broadest, most common, clearest demand of the people of Afghanistan, from every corner of the country, every language, ethnicity, religion, young and old, male and female, is an end to violence and a ceasefire. A demand that the religious scholars of the world also support it. The Taliban is standing against this demand. Whom do the Taliban fight for and whose will are they representing?" The attacks across Afghanistan have increased over the past few weeks despite the start of historic peace talks between Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha.

Impunity and...

"I think that will make some very significant findings, ones that I'm certain will make Australians uncomfortable and also dismayed at. So, I think we do need to prepare ourselves for that." While she had not seen the report, she felt that there was enough to be troubled by, though "that in no way reflects on our current serving men and women both here and overseas who are doing an extraordinary job for your nation."

The Senator is keen to push the point that things have improved since those dark days. Army Commander Lieutenant General Rick Burr also made the point in a note to Australia's soldiers that, "This is not who we are and not what we stand for." He seemed to show some fondness for the bad apple theory, "concerned about the impact of those findings on those of you who served in Afghanistan and other operations and who served as professionals with pride and integrity. You did the right thing."

The ADF establishment has been particularly concerned with what is seen as the isolation of the special unit arm from the rest of the army. Over the course of 20 rotations over 11 years in Afghanistan, "catastrophic and cultural shortfalls" have been identified within the Special Operations Command. The Special Air Service Regiment and commandos have also been at each other's throats in what can only be described as competitive viciousness.

Lying behind such lines of inquiry is a policy of containment: the idea that atrocities can be stemmed, cordoned off, and identified as the work of a few rotters within a rotten culture. Identify the culture and its advocates; neutralise them. Burr is confident that this has already taken place, using the insufferable language of organisational management in describing "substantial

cultural and professional transformation." The question as to why such outfits should be deployed in the first place is never asked, leaving politicians and commanders immune and smug from the horrors of war and the stupidities of armchair planning.

While the IGADF inquiry has been moving slowly along, the exposes have come thick and fast. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has become the main font of disturbing revelations, its Afghan Files a trove of bloody and brutal adventurism. The impact of their exposure led to investigations by the Australian Federal Police, not into allegations of such atrocities, but those who wrote about them. Only this month, ABC journalist Dan Oakes received the comforting, if cold news, that he would not be prosecuted by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in the aftermath of raids conducted on the national broadcaster last year. The CDPP waved the magic wand of public interest, and thought it poor form to be pursuing a journalist for exposing the misdeeds of Australia's military effort in Afghanistan. But more troubling for Oakes, the CDPP thought that any prosecution would have stood a reasonable chance of success.

Another matter of concern regarding the future efficacy of the inquiry has also surfaced. This month, the ABC obtained an internal Defence Department bulletin noting the placing of an embargo on the shredding of any records relating to ADF operations in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2015. The embargo stemmed from the Afghanistan Inquiry Task Force established with the "primary role" of preparing "Defence to receive and respond to the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry report." Startling that this should have taken four years, but the Defence

Department saw little trouble with it. According to the dull formulation of a spokesperson, "In accordance with these requirements, key operational records relating to planning and conduct become eligible for destruction after 20 years." This should have caused a flurry of consternation. For Rawan Arraf, director of the Australian Centre for International Justice, the timing of the embargo raised "serious questions about whether the Defence Department has had the proper processes in place; whether it has been complying with its regulations and international guidelines on record keeping and data protection, especially where it's relevant to investigating any potential violations of international humanitarian law or the laws of armed conflict."

While the findings of such inquiries will duly fill the books of military history, they will not alter the central problem in Australian military and foreign policy: that constant craving to deploy personnel to harsh foreign theatres without obvious strategic necessity. Australia's SAS and the commandos can rightly be seen to be the Ghurkhas of the US military, an elite annexe serving as auxiliaries for foreign power.

Troubled and ruined, Afghanistan has been killing, maiming and driving the imperially minded insane for centuries. It has mocked and derided invaders, swallowed up armies. The tag of military professionalism is mere dinner table formality in the face of unconventional warfare; when engaged in such areas of battle, the rules will go out the window. By all means, hold the soldiers to account for such cruelties, but the same could be said about those who sent them there in the first place, decision makers who remain perennially immune from a prosecutor's brief.

Exchange Rates

76.7	\$	76.8
90.1	€	90.2
99.1	£	99.2
474	Rp.	476
20.75	دولہ	20.85
1035	₹	1045

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

UN launches Libyan Political Dialogue Forum

The Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Libya, Stephanie Williams, launched Sunday the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) shortly after the signing of the permanent ceasefire agreement Friday. The forum will convene its first virtual meeting on Monday, while the direct in-person meeting of the LPDF will kick off on Nov. 9, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said in a statement. "The Libyan Political Dialogue Forum is a fully inclusive intra-Libyan political dialogue established by the Berlin Conference Outcomes, which were endorsed by Security Council resolutions 2510 (2020) and 2542 (2020)," the statement said. The invited participants to the Forum are drawn from different constituencies, based on the

principles of inclusivity, fair geographic, ethnic, political, tribal and social representation, the statement explained. The overall objective of the LPDF is a consensus on a unified governance framework to "restore Libya's sovereignty and the democratic legitimacy of Libyan institutions," the UNSMIL said. Williams said Friday that the Libyan delegations to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission talks in Geneva have signed a permanent ceasefire agreement. The eastern-based army and the UN-backed government had been engaged in conflict for over a year in and around the capital Tripoli, which ended in early June with the UN-backed government announcing the takeover of western Libya after withdrawal of the eastern-based army.



A look at the world

Morocco condemns French cartoons insulting Prophet

Morocco on Sunday joined a number of other countries that have condemned the recent republication of French cartoons insulting the Prophet Muhammad. The country's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the systematic publication of such cartoons "reflects the lack of maturity of their perpetrators." Strongly denouncing the move, it said the "freedom of an individual ends where the freedom of others and their beliefs begin."



It added that freedom of expression cannot explain the attacks and provocations on Islam, a religion with nearly 2 billion adherents worldwide. Meanwhile, people continue to support a boycott of French products that was launched through social media campaigns across Morocco. In recent weeks, French President Emmanuel Macron has attacked Islam and the Muslim community, accusing Muslims of "separatism." He described Islam as a "religion in crisis all over the world." This coincided with a provocative move by Charlie Hebdo, a left-wing French satirical magazine infamous for publishing anti-Islamic caricatures which have drawn widespread anger and outrage across the Muslim world. Earlier this year, it republished cartoons insulting Islam and Prophet Muhammad. The caricatures were first published in 2006 by the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten, sparking a wave of protests.

China to sanction U.S. firms over arms sales to Taiwan



China on Monday announced that it will impose sanctions on US companies and individuals over arms sales to Taiwan. "Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon are among the list of US businesses and individuals that will face Chinese sanctions over arm sales to China's Taiwan," China's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhao Lijian told a news conference in Beijing, according to local broadcaster CGTN. China claims Taiwan is a "breakaway province" while Taipei has insisted on its independent since 1949. At least 16 countries recognize it as such and have formal diplomatic relations with Taipei. Beijing had last week said it will make "necessary response" against the US' approval of a potential \$1.8 billion arms sales to Taiwan. The US State Department formally notified the Congress of the planned arms sales to Taiwan. China has repeatedly warned the US against any such move. Taiwan is expected to buy three weapon systems including sensors, missiles and artillery that could have a total value of \$1.8 billion. The move has angered Beijing which said such a move "severely violated the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques."

Japan will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050

Japan will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared Monday, outlining an ambitious agenda as the country struggles to balance economic and pandemic concerns. The policy speech at the outset of the parliamentary session was Suga's first since he took office on September 16 after his boss Shinzo Abe resigned over health reasons. It reflects Suga's pragmatic approach to getting things done, though it's unclear he will have the political heft needed to overcome vested interests in weaning this resource-scarce nation from its reliance on imports of oil and gas. Suga just returned from a trip last week to Vietnam and Indonesia, where he pushed ahead with Abe's efforts to build closer ties and promote a regional vision for countering growing Chinese influence. Now out of Abe's shadow, back home Suga has been pumping out consumer-friendly policies. He has earned a reputation as a cost cutter. He said he intends to make a sustainable economy



a pillar of his growth strategy and "put maximum effort into achieving a green society." That includes achieving a carbon-free society by 2050. The European Union and Britain have already set similar targets for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, and China recently announced it would become carbon-free by 2060. Japan previously targeted a 80% reduction by 2050. Suga portrayed the need to shift away from fossil fuels to counter climate change as an opportunity rather than a burden. "Global warming measures are no longer obstacles for economic growth, but would lead to industrial and socio-economic reforms and a major growth," he said. "We need to change our mindset." Japan's current energy plan, set in 2018, calls for 22-24% of its energy to come from renewables, 20-22% from nuclear power and 56% from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas. Progress toward reducing reliance on fossil fuels has been hindered due to the prolonged closures of most of Japan's nuclear plants after the meltdown of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant due to the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in the northeastern Tohoku region. Energy experts are now discussing revisions to Japan's basic energy plan for 2030 and 2050. The 2050 emissions-free target would require drastic changes and likely prompt calls for more ... **P2**



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