



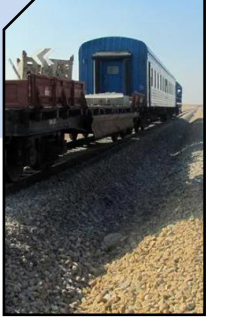
Page 2 | NATIONAL
Press Conference by
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous
Region of Xinjiang-related
Issues in Beijing

**Gwadar port provides huge trade opportunity to CARs,
Afghanistan: Razak Dawood**

Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has said that Gwadar port would provide huge ...

Page 3 | ECONOMY

Pakistan all set to
sign trilateral railway
connectivity pact



Page 2 | NATIONAL

Kabul
2 / -11



Herat
6 / -2



Nangarhar
11 / 0



Balkh
7 / 0



Heart of Asia

Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

Monday, December 28, 2020

Issue No. 893

www.heartofasia.af

10 afs



160 New COVID-19 Cases, Global Toll Reaches 80M

Ministry of Public Health reported Sunday, that out of 1,593 samples, 160 cases have turned positive in the last 24 hours.

At least 193,706 people have so far been tested in the governmental labs, and there still are 7,783 known active cases in the country.

According to the ministry, within 24 hours, 319 individuals have Recovered from COVID-19, and 12 individuals are reported dead.

The new cases recorded in Kabul are 27, Herat 46, Kandahar One, Nangarhar 10, Takhar 25, Paktya 11, Baghlan Four, Badghis 10, Wardak Three, Laghman Four, Kunar Four, Panjsher Three, Khost Four, Faryab Four, and Nuristan Four.

The total number of cases in Afghanistan is 52,007, Total deaths are 2,170 and the total recoveries are recorded 41,331. COVID-19 global toll has increased to 80,421,430 and the dead are reported to more than 1,759,067 according to Johns Hopkins' global dashboard.



16 Civilians Killed or wounded during past five days: AIHRC

Preliminary findings from the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) show that between 2 to 9 December there were nine IED & armed attacks in Khost, Kapisa, Kandahar and Kabul – 9 civilians killed and 17 others injured. The Human Rights Commission said in a statement released on Sunday that a number of civilians had been killed and wounded in separate incidents of bombings and armed attacks in the provinces.

According to the statement, AIHRC considers the killing of civilians to be forbidden, condemned and criminalized from the point of view of religious, legal and human rights. According to the Human Rights Commission, perpetrators of war crimes are responsible in every situation, time and place. ... **P2**

Ghani Agrees to Doha for Next Round of Talks



President Ghani has agreed to hold the next round of the peace negotiations in Doha, said Waheed Omer, head of the Office of Public and Strategic Affairs of the President, adding that the agreement was made based on the suggestion of the head of the negotiating team and the head of the High Council for National Reconciliation.

But Omer said that the government still maintains its stance that future rounds of talks--besides the next one--be held within Afghanistan. Ghani met with Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, on Sunday at the Presidential Palace to address the next round of the peace talks, the Palace said in a statement.

Ghani and Abdullah have discussed the second meeting of the leadership of the council and issues concerning the venue and time of the next round of the peace talks, it said. Meanwhile, Abdullah in a tweet said that they concluded the joint meeting between the leadership committee of the council with the

Republic's negotiation team on Sunday.

He said the committee reiterated its full support for the Republic's negotiation team and decided on clear guidelines for the team for the next round of talks.

Abdullah added that the leadership committee decided that the next round of peace talks will take place in Doha, Qatar.

President Ghani on December 14 said that the next round of the negotiations should take place in Afghanistan. He said that "while the Taliban is claiming that they are on Afghan soil, why aren't they holding talks on Afghan soil?"

He said the Afghan government is ready to negotiate with the Taliban in any area of Afghanistan that the group chooses.

The first round of the peace talks was held in Doha. The negotiations of the Afghan Republic and the Taliban were in Doha for 94 days during which they agreed on the procedural rules for the talks.

The negotiation team paused their talks for 23 days and agreed to resume the talks on Jan. 5.

Man Assassinated in Herat City

Security sources in Herat province say a 45-year-old man has been assassinated in the center Herat city. Abdul Ahad Valizada, a spokesman for the Herat Police said that the man had been killed by two gunmen on 64-meter public road at around 9:30 a.m. this morning.

Valizada also said the attackers had fled the area after killing the man. He stressed that a police investigation has been launched regarding the incident.

This comes as the target killings and assassinations have recently increased in Afghanistan provinces.



Afghan Football Team Holds Training Camp in Dubai

Afghanistan's national football team has begun a six-day training camp to prepare for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifier matches, Afghanistan's Football Federation said on Saturday.

The team held its first training on Saturday afternoon in Dubai with the participation of 10 new players, the federation said.

In March 2021, Bangladesh will host Afghanistan, and Afghanistan will host Oman in the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifier matches.

Fardin Hakimi, the national team's midfielder, has missed the training camps due to sickness, while Noor Hussain, another midfielder, will also not attend because he is infected with the coronavirus, said the AFF.



Farid Sadat David, a forward, and Adam Najm, another midfielder, were also missed at the camps due to lockdowns in the countries where they reside. Omran Haidary, Sharif Mohammad and Islamuddin will not attend the

camp due to ongoing matches in the Poland and India leagues.

Anoush Dastgir, coach of Afghanistan's national football team, has invited ten new players to the training camps from the Afghan Premier League (APL) ... **P3**

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Press Conference by Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang-related Issues in Beijing

In the morning of December 21, 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China holds Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's 21st Press Conference on Xinjiang-related Issues at the press release room in Beijing, briefing Chinese and foreign media on Xinjiang's situation and answering their questions. The participants from Xinjiang include deputy director-general Xu Guixiang of the Publicity Department of CPC Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee, spokesperson Ilijan Anayat of the Information Office of Xinjiang People's Government, Hatip Obulhasan Tursunniyaz of the Jama Mosque in Hotan City, two graduated trainees Ablajan Ablat and Tursunnisa Ali who graduated from a vocational education and training center in Aksu Prefecture and Hotan Prefecture respectively, and two workers Shirali Mamtimin from Hotan Prefecture and Paziliya Tursun from Aksu Prefecture.

Moderator: Good morning. Welcome to the press conference brought to you by Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To answer your questions, we are happy to have invited deputy director-general Xu Guixiang of the Publicity Department of CPC Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee, spokeswomen Ilijan Anayat of the Information Office of Xinjiang People's Government, Hatip Obulhasan Tursunniyaz of the Jama Mosque in Hotan City, two graduated trainees Ablajan Ablat and Tursunnisa Ali who graduated from a vocational education and training in Aksu Prefecture and Hotan Prefecture respectively, and two workers Shirali Mamtimin from Hotan Prefecture and Paziliya Tursun from Aksu Prefecture. Please introduce your organization before asking questions. Now, we open the floor for questions.

Xu Guixiang: Friends from the press, good morning. It's a great pleasure to communicate Xinjiang-related issues with you. I've met some of you in Xinjiang. Meanwhile, there are some new friends. I'd like to extend my welcome to you all. In recent years, the overall situation in Xinjiang has seen remarkable changes. Xinjiang now enjoys steady and sound economic growth, constant improvement of people's livelihood and

steady progress in all undertakings. The sense of fulfillment, happiness and security has been on the rise across Xinjiang. Firstly, the overall situation in Xinjiang is stable. Frequent terrorist and violent activities have been the thing of past. No single case of violent terrorism has been occurred in Xinjiang for the past four years. The number of criminal cases, public security cases, cases of endangering public security and public safety incidents has fallen significantly. People's hope for peace and stability has been realized. Secondly, steady and healthy economic growth. Stick to the new development philosophy, we have achieved high quality development of economy. From 2014 to 2019, the GDP in Xinjiang rose from 919.59 billion yuan to 1.35 trillion yuan, with an annual growth rate of 7.2%; the general public budget revenue rose to 157.77 billion yuan from 128.23 billion yuan, with an annual growth rate of 5.7%. Continued improvement of infrastructures. All the regions and prefectures in Xinjiang have entered the era of express ways. Thirdly, people's life has been greatly improved. The annual growth rate of per capita disposable income of residents in Xinjiang was 9.1%. 1.69 million rural houses and 1.56 million government-subsidized housing projects in cities and towns have been constructed. More than 10 million people have moved to new houses. Public service has upgraded continually; social security increasingly improved. All the residents in Xinjiang have access to free physical checkups. The medical infrastructure in rural and pasturing area has improved a lot. Standardization for clinics in townships and villages reached 100%; and 99.7% residents were covered by the basic medical insurance. Fourthly, decisive results have achieved in poverty alleviation. More than 3 million people were lifted out of poverty under the current poverty line. Poverty was eliminated in 3666 poverty-stricken villages and 32 towns. The absolute poverty issue in Xinjiang has been solved historically.

The hard-won achievements of stability and development in Xinjiang represent the hard work from people of all ethnic groups which have earned supports from visionary people worldwide. It should be further cherished. For

journalists present here today, we are grateful to your objective and fact-based reports. Meanwhile, our policy on Xinjiang are wantonly slandered by some anti-China forces, media outlets, think tanks and politicians. They spread groundless reports and viciously vilify Xinjiang related issues. They intend to sow discord in ethnic relations, disrupt development in Xinjiang and confuse the international community. People of all ethnic group in Xinjiang firmly oppose it and they are indignant about it!

Here, I solemnly make it clear that the so called Xinjiang-related issues are not at all about ethnicity, religion, or human rights, instead they are about anti-violence, anti-terrorism, anti-separatism and deradicalization. These issues have been properly handled in Xinjiang based on facts, truth and justice. We resolutely defend the achievements of Xinjiang's stability and development, all ethnic groups' fundamental interests, and national security. We will speak the truth loudly and never give in, and we will firmly rebuke any slander and smear towards Xinjiang. I believe that lies repeated a thousand times are still lies, for everyone's eyes are bright. Today, the purpose for us to hold this press conference on Xinjiang issues is to expose lies and tell the truth about Xinjiang to everyone. I hope everyone here will report objectively and rationally and represent an authentic Xinjiang to the world. Thank you.

Questions raised by foreign media

NBC: 1) In March the ASPI accused international brands including Adidas, Gap and Nike of using Uighur forced labor in their textile supply chains. And recently a report by Washington-based think tank the Center for Global Policy cited online government documents as proof that in 2018 three majority-Uighur regions within Xinjiang sent at least 570,000 people to pick cotton as part of a state-run coercive labor transfer scheme. Will you welcome foreign media to visit factories and farms to independently verify if these claims are accurate or not? 2) In a new book Pope Francis said: "I think often of persecuted peoples: the Rohingya, the poor Uighurs, the Yazidi." It was the first time he had called China's Uighurs a persecuted people. Can we say the Pope was

right or wrong?

Xu Guixiang: The so called "massive forced labor" in Xinjiang are lies and fallacies fabricated by some US and Western anti-China organizations and individuals, and we have exposed it on many occasions. In real practice, laborers of all ethnicities in Xinjiang choose their jobs out of their free will, and sign labor contracts with and receive compensation from companies on the basis of equality and voluntariness according to The Labor Law of PRC and relevant regulations. They enjoy full freedom in deciding where to work. Thus the alleged "forced labor" thing just doesn't exist in Xinjiang.

On September 17, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China issued a White Paper on Employment and Labor Rights in Xinjiang which gave a full account of Xinjiang's employment situation, proactive employment policies, labor rights protection and demonstrable results. All laborers of all ethnicities in Xinjiang work voluntarily according to The Labor Law and The Labor Contract Law. On November 13, employees of ethnic minorities from Hotan, Turpan and other places telling their stories about their experience at workplace or in starting their own businesses at the press conferences on Xinjiang related issues. If people from overseas really care about the employment situation in Xinjiang, they should read the white paper and listen to what these employees said. It must be pointed out that all ethnic minority laborers in Xinjiang, who are a part of the labor force of the country, are free to choose their jobs and each of their rights and benefits is protected by law. They have full freedom in deciding where to work and what jobs they do. Either working in Xinjiang or in other cities, they all enjoy equal rights to be compensated, to rest, to workplace safety, to social insurance, and to freedom of religious belief and to use their ethnic languages in accordance with law. They work and live in an pleasant and comfortable environment and their families back home are free of worries about them. In recent years, employees of ethnic minorities get steady income through employment. According to incomplete statistics, the annual per capita income of workers... **P3**

Gwadar port provides huge trade opportunity to CARs, Afghanistan: Razak Dawood

Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has said that Gwadar port would provide huge opportunities to the energy rich Central Asian Countries and Afghanistan for regional trade connectivity. Talking to APP in an exclusive interview here, adviser Abdul Razak Dawood said that government was prioritizing the economic integration to promote regional trade and connect the regional important trade players with the deep sea port Gwadar. Replying to question, he said that Central Asian Republic (CARs) are demanding to providing them trade facilitation in Gwadar and Bin Qasim sea port for international and regional trade and providing them the facility of the warehouse. Adviser said Deep Sea Port

of Gwadar has its own geo-strategic and economic importance which was located at the centre of regional connectivity and a possible railway link from Gwadar to Kandhar and other parts of Afghanistan. He said Central Asia via Afghanistan can become a key trade and transportation route for the entire region. Razak Dawood said that Pakistan was actively participating in regional forums of Central Asia Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) so that maximum benefits could be taken when the Gwadar Port operates at full capacity in near future. Government of Afghanistan has requested Pakistan to provide Cross-Stuffing Facility at Gwadar Port, he

said. He informed that when modalities are finalized by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), ample employment opportunities will be generated for the locals. He said development of Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) would provide more opportunities to establish new industries as huge investment has been pouring in under CPEC and it will also provide the shortest possible route to the goods in transit. He said that with the improvement in Transshipment facilities at Gwadar, the whole dynamics of the regional connectivity would be changed. The Adviser said that Gwadar was at strategic location giving China and Central Asia an access to the Gulf Region and the Middle East. ... **P3**

European Union...

Belgium. The EU has seen some of the world's earliest and hardest-hit virus hot spots, including Italy and Spain. Others EU countries, like the Czech Republic, were spared the worst early on only to see their health care systems near collapse in the fall. Altogether, the EU's 27 nations have recorded at least 16 million coronavirus infections and more than 336,000 deaths — huge numbers that experts still agree understate the true toll of the pandemic due to missed cases and limited testing. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen released a video Saturday celebrating the vaccine rollout, calling it "a touching moment of unity." The campaign should ease frustrations that were building up, especially in Germany, as Britain, Canada and

the United States kicked off their inoculation programs with the same vaccine weeks earlier.

As it turned out, some EU immunizations began a day early in Germany, Hungary and Slovakia. The operator of a German nursing home where dozens of people were vaccinated Saturday, including a 101-year-old woman, said "every day that we wait is one day too many."

Each country is deciding on its own who will get the first shots. Spain, France and Germany, among others, are vowing to put the elderly and residents in nursing homes first.

Poland is also prioritizing doctors, nurses and others on the front lines of fighting the virus. The central European nation was largely spared the surge that hit Western Europe in the spring, but has seen high daily infections and deaths this fall.

16 Civilians...

The commission called on the government to ensure the rights and security of the people. The commission also called on the United Nations, the international community, religious scholars and Islamic countries to use their influence to support the human rights of the Afghan people and to put pressure on

them to end the violence.

In recent days, there has been an increase in IEDs and magnetic explosions, as well as targeted attacks in various parts of the country, including Kabul.

On Saturday alone, three early morning IED explosions rattled Kabul and as a result at least four people were killed and seven others were wounded.

Pakistan all set to sign trilateral railway connectivity pact

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati has said Prime Minister Imran Khan will soon sign an agreement for a trilateral railway project connecting Pakistan with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan is all set to sign a letter, which is already signed by the presidents of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, seeking \$4.8b loan from the WB for a railway line project connecting Pakistan with Afghanistan.

Talking to news channel, Swati revealed that the project, which was conceived in 2018, included both passenger and cargo trains going between the three countries. He said the project was made possible through a \$4.5 billion initiative under the auspices of the World Bank. "Prime minister will sign the project in a day or two during the visit of a delegation from Uzbekistan, which will include either the deputy prime

minister or the transport minister," said Swati. He added that the accord had already been signed by the presidents of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Swati termed the agreement on project the "best news of 2020" for three countries because of the opportunities it would provide for transport, trade and cargo. "A whole corridor to Central Asian republics will be opened up," said Swati, highlighting that potential connections with parts of Russia also

constituted an important aspect of the rail linkages. Speaking on routes which Pakistan would operate, the minister said, "Pakistan will do its job from Peshawar to Torkham. Afghanistan and Uzbekistan will operate the project beyond Torkham." Swati said both passenger and cargo trains would operate, and emphasised that the project would deploy "high speed trains" only.

Gwadar port...

He said that in future, it would be a main Sea-gate for the Central Asia. It would also become easy to send products from Xinjiang and Central Asian countries to other regions, he said. Replying to another question, he said that this port was likely to reduce transport time for goods from Gwadar to Western China and the Central Asian Republics by 60% to 70%.

Razak Dawood said that all possible steps are being taken by the Ministry of Commerce, in coordination with other stakeholders, to provide modern facilities at Gwadar Port so that goods clearance time may be reduced as per the set international standards.

Moreover, in the forthcoming Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF 2020-25) special focus has been accorded to Trade facilitation, Economic Infrastructure Development, Transshipment and Development of Economic Corridors (CPEC and CAREC) so that overall policy environment could be improved in general and regional connectivity should be increased in particular, he informed.

Responding to a question on Pak- Afghanistan, Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), he said that in 2015, Pakistan shared a draft Pak-Afghan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Afghanistan.

Subsequently, Afghanistan has shared its comments on draft PTA and its request list and offer lists in November, 2019 and June 2020, he added.

Razak Dawood said the work on Afghanistan's Request List has been undertaken by Ministry of Commerce, in consultation with government sector stakeholders including Ministry of Industries, Ministry of National Food Security and Research and FBR, as well as private sector.

He said that during his recent visit to Kabul in November, the two sides decided to form a Technical Negotiation Committee (TNC) to start negotiations on PTA.

The ministry of Commerce has notified its TNC and requested the Afghan side to follow suit, so that first meeting of TNC may be held.

Afghan Football...

who distinguished themselves in the 9th season, which was held in 2020.

"These players can shine during this training camp and have the opportunity to wear the national team jersey in the future," said Dastgir.

The training camp will continue until December 30 in Dubai.

Press Conference...

from Xinjiang who are working in other provinces is about 40,000 yuan, roughly equal to the per capita disposable income of permanent urban residents in the places where they work. The local people who left their home to work elsewhere in Xinjiang have an annual per capita income of 30,000 yuan, much higher than earnings from farming. Where does this forced labor come from when all the workers and their families are satisfied with the arrangement of transferred employment?

It has proved that Xinjiang's policies and practices concerning employment and job security comply with Chinese Constitution and relevant laws, conform to international labor and human rights standards, and support the will of all ethnic groups to live a better life. These policies and practices can withstand any test. Ignoring Xinjiang's tremendous efforts in guaranteeing human rights and promoting employment of all ethnic groups, some people in the US and Western countries violate the basic labor rights of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang under the banner of human rights by hyping their false claims of so-called "forced labor" in the region. Their acts amount to a denial of the fact that the local people in Xinjiang enjoy the right to work, aspire to move out of poverty and backwardness and are working towards that goal. Their attempts defy people wishes.

When talking about "cotton picking", years before, when it came to the harvest season, many workers from Provinces of Henan, Sichuan, Gansu came to Xinjiang by train, they were called "cotton picking contingents". Local workers in Xinjiang also voluntarily went to cotton producing areas to help the picking. They worked together and cared about each other, building strong bond of friendship. Picking cotton is totally the farmers' voluntary choice: a month-long work can bring them about 10,000 yuan of income. Isn't it a wise decision? As you mentioned about "visit factories and farms", we have no problem with as long as the factories and farms agree. Xinjiang is an open area, we welcome friends from all over the world to visit Xinjiang and learn about the real situation on the spot. In October this year, there were 20 Arab ambassador to China and envoys of the League of Arab States in China visited Xinjiang and conducted

on-the-spot investigation in Aksu Huaifu Color Spinning Co., Ltd.. They said that "the company operates very well, the employees live and work happily here, they totally enjoy their rights", "the employees here enjoy comfortable and stable lives, and are adequately provided with working clothes, food, accommodation and commuting service and skills training." When it comes to cotton picking season, I'd like to take you to the cotton field and to hear what will cotton farmers say.

Ilijan Anayat: Labeling Uyghurs as "a persecuted people" has no support of facts or evidence. China is home to 56 ethnic groups, Uyghurs are an equal member of the Chinese nation. The Chinese Constitution and the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy prescribe that "all ethnic groups in China are equal and the state protects the lawful rights and interests of ethnic minorities." People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang including Uyghurs enjoy equal legal status, the right to vote and to stand for election, and all other rights, such as to participate in the administration of state affairs, freedom of religious belief, to receive education, to use and develop their own spoken and written languages, and to preserve their traditional cultures and customs.

Meanwhile, all ethnic groups in Xinjiang enjoy full rights to subsistence and development. Xinjiang allocates 70% of the general annual fiscal revenue to guarantee and improve the people's livelihoods through an array of benefiting-people projects in employment, culture, education and medical care. In terms of employment, a dynamic mechanism has been put in place to ensure at least one member of zero-employment families get employed. In terms of education, we are pushing for integrative development of rural-urban education and the enrollment rate of schooling children in compulsory education hovers at 99.9%. Nine-year compulsory education covers the whole region, while southern Xinjiang enjoys 3-year free preschool education and 12-year free elementary education. In terms of health and medical care, free physical examination has become popularized to all residents in Xinjiang, with the participation rates of basic medical insurance, old-age pension and major illness insurance for impoverished

people reached full coverage. All the poverty-stricken rural population has been lifted out of poverty by current standards, making the historical extreme poverty to an end in Xinjiang. All Uyghurs have shared the fruits of development and fulfilled their dream of living in peace and contentment, which is reflected on their faces and rooted in their hearts. You can visit cities and countryside in Xinjiang to take a look at what we Uyghurs eat and wear and how we live. Come and see whether they are going through the so called "persecution" or not.

EFE: 1) Recently, about how many trainees in the "re-education camp" in Xinjiang? Is the number of trainees over one million? 2) Evidence showed that there's hardly anyone in the mosques in Xinjiang because many surveillance equipment is near the gate of the mosque, people who goes to mosque will be penalized. Is this true? In Xinjiang, is there corresponding penalty to people who goes to mosques, conducts Islamic religious activities in public or in private?

Ilijan Anayat: We have firmly emphasized for many times that there has been no so-called "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. The vocational education and training centers legally established in Xinjiang were actually schools with the character of deradicalization, which were no different in essence from the "community corrections" enforced in the US, the DDP (Desistance and Disengagement Programme) in the UK, and the deradicalization centers in France, all being conducive attempt and proactive exploration for preventive counterterrorism and deradicalization, complying with the principals and spirits of United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy and other anti-terrorism resolutions.

The white paper Vocational Education and training centers in Xinjiang issued by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China expounded in detail the urgent needs, legislative authority, teaching content, management measures and remarkable results of education and training efforts. On August 24, 2020, CCTV released a special document on this matter named Lies and Truth: Vocational Education and training in Xinjiang, vividly presenting to the public the real stories and scenes in the centers.

Continue

Exchange Rates

77.1	\$	77.2
93.5	€	93.6
102.9	£	103
478	Rp.	479
20.85	₹	20.95
1030	₹	1040

Contact Numbers

Kabul Police - 119

Kabul Ambulance - 112

Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital

0202301360

Ata Turk Hospital

0202500312

Corona call center - 166



Shigal
English Academy

شېگل انگلیش اکاډمي

Easy
English
Learning

Western Street of
Kabul University Close to
Dehbori Park.

+93 (0) 789 98 9696

shigal.edu@gmail.com

Shigal English Academy

www.shigal.edu.af



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

European Union nations kick off mass COVID-19 vaccinations

European Union nations officially kicked off a coordinated effort Sunday to give COVID-19 vaccinations to some of the most vulnerable among their nearly 450 million people, marking a moment of hope in the continent's battle against the worst public health crisis in a century.

Shots were administered Sunday morning to health care workers, the elderly and some leading politicians to reassure the public that the vaccinations are safe.

In Prague, Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis received his shot at dawn and asserted: "There's nothing to worry about." In Rome, five doctors and nurses wearing white scrubs sat in a semi-circle at Rome's Spallanzani infectious diseases hospital to receive their doses.

"Getting vaccinated is an act of love and

responsibility toward the collective whole," Claudia Alivernini, a 29-year-old Spallanzani nurse, said on the eve of being the first to receive the shot in Italy, which has Europe's worst virus toll at more than 71,000 dead.

Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza, speaking outside the hospital, said the coordinated EU rollout was a sign of hope for the continent, but that people still cannot let down their guard for several months more.

"We still have difficult months ahead," he said. "It's a beautiful day, but we still need to exercise caution ... this vaccine is the true path to close out this difficult season."

The vaccines, developed by Germany's BioNTech and American drugmaker Pfizer, started arriving in super-cold containers at EU hospitals on Friday from a factory in ... **P2**



A look at the world

Turkish defense chief visits Turkish soldiers in Libya

Turkish National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar together with top military officials on Sunday visited the Turkish troops deployed in Libya.

Hulusi Akar, who visited the Libya Task Group Command, addressed the troops and said the Turkish Armed Forces has been going through a busy period.

Akar said the armed forces that discharge duties for the security of 83 million people in Turkey also do their best to contribute to the security of all friendly countries such as



Libya, Azerbaijan and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

"The main problem in Libya is the coup leader [Khalifa] Haftar and his supporters, and that's where the problem stems," he said, emphasizing that the legitimate government in Libya is the Government of National Accord (GNA) that was formed under a UN initiative.

Highlighting that Haftar was responsible for the bloodshed in Libya, Akar said: "Killer Haftar and his supporters will be seen as legitimate targets everywhere, if Turkish elements are attacked."

Libya has been torn by a civil war since the ouster of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The GNA was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement, but efforts for a long-term settlement failed due to a military offensive by forces loyal to Haftar. He launched an onslaught on the capital Tripoli in April 2019 but was pushed back.

A cease-fire was agreed on in late October, and negotiations for an interim setup before presidential and parliamentary elections on Dec. 24, 2021 are continuing.

UN hails prisoner swap between Libyan gov't, Haftar



The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Saturday hailed the success of implementing a prisoner exchange between the Libyan government and eastern warlord Khalifa Haftar.

"UNSMIL welcomes the remarkable success registered...by the exchange of prisoners from both sides under the supervision of the Joint Military Commission (5+5)," the mission said on Twitter.

On Friday, a prisoner exchange of 48 prisoners was implemented between the Libyan government and the Haftar militia in Ash Shurayf area, 417 km to the south from the capital Tripoli.

UNSMIL also praised efforts of the tribal sheikhs and elders which contributed to achieving the swap.

A Libyan security officer said 33 prisoners from Haftar's militia were released in exchange for 15 soldiers from the Libyan army, under the supervision of the (5+5) Libyan Joint Military Commission.

On Oct. 23, the UN announced a permanent cease-fire agreement between Libya's warring rivals during its facilitated 5+5 Libyan Joint Military Commission talks in Geneva.

Libya has been torn by civil war since the ouster of late ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Based in the capital Tripoli and currently led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, the Government of National Accord was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement. But efforts for a long-term political settlement have failed due to a military offensive by militias loyal to Haftar.

Al-Sarraj's government has been battling Haftar's militias since April 2019 in a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives.

Number of coronavirus cases top 3M in Russia

The total number of people who have been exposed to the novel coronavirus in Russia exceeded 3 million on Saturday.

According to the country's emergency task force, 29,258 people tested positive for COVID-19 over the past day, taking the overall count to 3.02 million and active cases to 541,299.

Over the same period, recoveries grew by 28,185 to reach over 2.42 million, while 567 new fatalities raised the death toll in the country to 54,266.



The COVID-19 spread in Russia has skyrocketed since September, with the country reaching the 1 million mark on Sept. 1, and 2 million on Nov. 19.

To slow down the spread, the authorities launched a vaccination campaign with Russian Sputnik V vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya Research Center.

At first, the vaccine was authorized for people aged between 18 and 60.

But, the Russian Health Ministry on Saturday granted permission for the use of vaccine for people above 60 after the Gamaleya Research Center announced it had completed the trials on people of this age group.

On Friday, the Gamaleya Research Center announced it had completed the trials on people over 60 and on Saturday the Russian Health Ministry granted permission for the use of vaccine for this age group.

Sputnik V vaccine is to be administered through two injections and can be combined with other antigens, including those used against the flu.

Currently, Russia's overall case tally is the fourth highest in the world, behind the US, India, and Brazil.



Aksos
اکسوس کتابپلورتنگی
Aksos Book Store



Add a Book
to
Your Life

Dehbori Crossroads in front of Park Kabul
0798 98 9696, 020 250 46 52
aksosbookstore@gmail.com
www.aksosbookstore.af
Aksos Book Store
Aksos Book Store



Shigal
English Academy

Easy
English
Learning

Western Street of
Kabul University Close to
Dehbori Park.
+93 (0) 789 98 9696
shigal.edu@gmail.com
Shigal English Academy
www.shigal.edu.af