

Development, Not Ideology, is the Hard Truth



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Govt Estimates Wheat Yield Down 20% Due to Drought: Govt



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Kabul Welcomes Tehran's Proposal for Holding Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Meeting

Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar met with Iranian Foreign Minister's special envoy for Afghanistan affairs Mohammad-Ebrahim Taherani, Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry announced in a statement. "Taherani briefed Atmar on the outcome of his recent visit to Pakistan," the statement said. Referring to the importance of regional consensus and strengthening relations among Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Taherani proposed a trilateral foreign ministerial meeting. Underscoring the need for further cementing friendly relations between Kabul and Tehran, Atmar noted that consolidating and expanding...



Taliban Families Living in Pakistan: Pakistani's Interior Minister

Pakistan's interior minister said Sunday that the families of Afghanistan's Taliban live in his country, including in areas around the capital, Islamabad, and that members of the insurgent group receive medical treatment in local hospitals. The admission by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed came during an interview aired by a privately-owned Pakistani television channel, Geo News. This is a significant departure from Islamabad's consistent rejection of allegations leveled by Afghan leaders that the Taliban use Pakistani soil to direct and sustain insurgent activities in Afghanistan. "Taliban families live here, in Pakistan, in Rawat, Loi Ber, Bara Kahuh and Tarnol," Rashid told the Urdu-language network citing the names of Islamabad suburbs. "Sometimes their dead bodies arrive and sometimes they come here in hospitals to get medical treatment," he said. Separately, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told...

People Will Defend Country If War Imposed: Abdullah



Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, on Monday at a press conference said that the Afghan people will defend the country if war is imposed on them. "Peace was always the demand of the people of Afghanistan, but if the war has been imposed on them, they have no choice but to defend themselves," Abdullah said, "however, peace efforts are ongoing." "My message in

the last meeting with Taliban representatives in Moscow was that both sides will not reach a result by force--by war. This will not be possible if the Taliban try to reach their target militarily," Abdullah said. In a meeting with US President Biden in Washington, Abdullah said that Biden pledged that the US "will be with the people of Afghanistan in the peace process and will also continue to support the Afghan security forces." "The US

president also emphasized the need for political consensus," he said. Abdullah said that the US will end its military presence in the country but will continue its assistance to Afghanistan. On Friday, President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah met with Biden at the White House and the US president promised a "sustained" partnership, said the Afghan leaders. President Ghani and Chairman Abdullah also met at the Pentagon with US Defense

Secretary Lloyd Austin. While Biden vowed that the US was committed to assisting Afghanistan, he also insisted that it was time for the American military to step back, according to the Associated Press. On Friday, President Ghani said that Afghans will not be compelled by force and that the Taliban should agree to a ceasefire and enter a political process. Ghani spoke at a press conference following meetings with President Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other American officials and lawmakers, and said that the Afghan forces are prepared to ensure the country's security and that he respects the decision by the United States to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. "Force is not a way to compel an Afghan to submission. We still call on them to have a ceasefire and to engage in a political process because a political settlement is the ultimate mechanism of ending a war. As Lincoln said, the best way of treating an enemy is to turn him into a friend," he said. Violence remains high in the country amid stalled peace negotiations. Several districts are contested between the Afghan forces and the Taliban.

Moi Bans Motorcycle Movements in Kabul

Interior Ministry spokesperson Tariq Arian on Monday said that until further notice, "documented and undocumented" motorcycles will be banned in the city and districts of Kabul. Arian wrote on his Facebook page, "Realizing that it will be a temporary problem for some of our compatriots; but there is a demand for comprehensive cooperation with the security forces in this regard."

According to him, if the rule is ignored, the motorcycle will be stopped by the police. He did not provide further details. Meanwhile, as residents of a number of provinces mobilized against the Taliban, Mir Rahman Rahmani, speaker of the House of Representatives, said that the government should "fully..."



US Pledged 37 Black Hawks, 2 Fixed-Wing Attack Aircraft

The Afghan delegation in Washington was told that the US will provide 37 Black Hawk helicopters and two A-29 Super Tucano fixed-wing attack aircraft to Afghanistan, sources told TOLONews on Monday. The US officials also assured the Afghan delegation that 200 US contractors, mostly working with the military aircraft, will remain in Afghanistan until the end of September. Currently, Afghan forces have more than 160 helicopters and aircraft. On Monday, Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, at a press conference said that the US will end its military presence in the country but will continue its assistance to Afghanistan and the Afghan air forces. "A new chapter has been opened in US and Afghanistan relations," he said.



In his meeting with the Afghan delegation, US President Joe Biden promised the Afghan leaders a "sustained" partnership even as he moves to accelerate winding down the US's longest war in Afghanistan. President Ghani and Chairman Abdullah also met at the Pentagon with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. While Biden vowed that

the US was committed to assisting Afghanistan, he also insisted that it was time for the American military to step back, according to the Associated Press report. On Friday, President Ghani also said that Afghans will not be compelled to submission by force and that the Taliban should agree to a ceasefire and enter a political process.

India's COVID-19...

reported in India. Thailand reported 5,406 cases, the third highest daily tally since the pandemic began, raising the total case tally to 249,853. The country's daily cases have regularly been in the thousands for more than two months since the third wave of the outbreak began in early April, with the capital Bangkok and its vicinity regions as the epicenter. Nearly one-third of Monday's new cases were detected in Bangkok. Cumulative deaths rose to 1,934, up by 22 on Monday. To curb rising infections, Thailand decided to ban restaurant dine-in services and gatherings of more than 20 people in Bangkok and nine other provinces, in addition to the previously announced sealing-off of construction sites. These measures will remain for 30 days starting from Monday. The government will pay for half the wages of employees affected by the one-month ban at restaurants and construction sites, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha told reporters Monday at the Government House. A new batch of COVID-19 vaccine Cambodia purchased from China's pharmaceutical company Sinovac Biotech arrived in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on Monday, the state-run National Television of Cambodia (TVK) reported. The Chinese Embassy in Cambodia confirmed the new arrival of the vaccine in a Facebook post, saying that the China-Cambodia joint COVID-19 fight has set a model for international cooperation. The embassy said the new arrival truly reflected China's commitment to making its COVID-19 vaccines a global public good and expressed a strong belief that the Chinese vaccines will soon help Cambodia to achieve herd immunity. Cambodia's infections continued to rise as the country confirmed 883 new cases, bringing the national caseload to 48,532, the health ministry said in a statement. The kingdom also reported 16 new fatalities, taking the overall death toll to 556 so far, the ministry said, adding that 607 patients recovered, raising the total number of recoveries to 42,764. Pakistan reported less than 1,000 new cases over the last 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said. The NCOC, the department leading Pakistan's campaign against the pandemic, said 914 new cases were reported and the number of the country's overall cases climbed to 955,657, adding that there have been 901,201 people who recovered so far. According to the NCOC, a total of 20 people also lost their lives to the disease over the last 24 hours, raising the overall death toll to 22,231. Pakistan's eastern Punjab province is the worst-hit region with 345,900 infections, followed by the southern Sindh province which reported 336,076 infections.

By: CGTN

Development, Not Ideology, is the Hard Truth

"It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white so long as it catches mice." The late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's words go straight to the truth of China's rapid growth – the country has chosen a development path that suits its actual conditions. Yes, China is a socialist country. But socialism is not a sclerotic system. It varies in strategy and practice in different periods. This ensures that capitalism is not held in binary opposition to socialism. Before Deng led China onto the path of reform and opening-up in 1978, China was locked in the largest ideological box in the world, splitting hairs over socialism vs. capitalism. It insisted that everything and anything of socialism must be, by nature, better than capitalism. At that time, China probably achieved the highest level of egalitarianism in human history, but it was egalitarianism of poverty – everyone was equally poor. Clearly, this was not the result China wanted. Deng had the wisdom and courage to declare that if socialism means poverty, it is not the system for China. The political system for China should be socialism with Chinese characteristics, which can incorporate everything and anything which can help China develop for the benefit of the people. It's true that the planned economy may have been effective in the early days of China's development, as it enabled the country to pool the resources needed to build a national industrial system. But China's socialism does not mean rigid adherence to a centrally-controlled economy. As China entered a new stage of development, it shifted focus to opening-up and overhauling the economic system to drive its industrialization to a higher level. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has since become the most powerful liberating force for China, igniting innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, productivity, efficiency, and eagerness to learn from anyone or any country



who can help China grow and develop further. As Deng said, development is the hard truth. The real test of the truth is practice, not ideology. Chinese people have the final say on whether something is good or not for the country. Ideology is not the only criterion in determining China's developmental path. This requires high-level institutional flexibility in China's governance. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has made the whole system in China dynamic, test-based, and forward-looking, and has turned the Chinese people into the final arbiter of reform and social experiments in all walks of life. Complacency, ossification, blind worship of authorities of all kinds, and limitations on people's ambition to experiment and explore have been declared public enemies in China. People are encouraged to discover, to dare, to leap, to soar and to break taboos, and to create new characteristics of all kinds for a better tomorrow in China and in the world. It is in this broad context that China has transformed itself from impoverishment to the world's second largest economy. Being a socialist country does not conflict with China's efforts to promote a market economy and its role in international trade. Since its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, China's exports have risen nearly ten times to roughly \$2.59 trillion in 2020, while

imports rose by nearly eight and-a-half times to \$2.05 trillion. China's institutional flexibility explains these strides. Fast forwarding into the 21st century, President Xi Jinping has declared that China is now in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China's transformation is supported by two pillars – maintaining stability at home and keeping peace in the world. The country is fast emerging as a leading champion of free trade, economic development, sustainable development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection. In the world of today, socialism with Chinese characteristics is based on multiculturalism and multilateralism. Every country is entitled to follow the political system of its own choice, and no country in the world has the right to impose its own values or systems onto other countries. As Deng said, it doesn't matter if a cat is black or white so long as it catches mice. China's institutional flexibility has saved the Chinese people from poverty as well as political and ideological hair-splitting, and instilled the strong spirit of pragmatism, realism and hardwork in the Chinese people. This paved the way for China's emergence as a major power. Victor Gao is a chair professor at Soochow University and vice president of the Center for China and Globalization.

By: Modern Diplomacy

Time Running Out to Prevent 'Worst Case Scenario' Arising in Afghanistan

With all the major indicators for Afghanistan's security and development looking "negative or stagnant" as international troops withdraw, the threats that lie ahead cannot be overstated, the top UN official in the country told the Security Council on Tuesday. From politics to security, the peace process to the economy, Deborah Lyons, Special Representative and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), said the "possible slide toward dire scenarios is undeniable". "The relentless spirit of the Afghans and their incredible resilience is being severely tested", she said, reminding that what happens there is "of global consequence", and the Security Council needed

to be fully aware of the gravity of the situation. **Unfolding Reality** She described the mid-April announcement, led by the United States, of troop withdrawal after two decades of war as a "seismic tremor" for the country, which had happened unexpectedly fast. The decision to pull out was part of the February 2020 agreement between the US and the Taliban to create space for peace among Afghans, instead, "actions on the battlefield have been far greater than progress at the negotiating table", she added. She told ambassadors that the public and the diplomatic community in Kabul have been "alarmed at the lack of political unity", which must be addressed or risk

contributing to further Taliban territorial advances. **Taliban Advance** Through its intensified military campaign, the Taliban has taken more than 50 of Afghanistan's 370 districts since the beginning of May. "Most districts that have been taken surround provincial capitals, suggesting that the Taliban are positioning themselves to try and take these capitals once foreign forces are fully withdrawn", warned the Special Representative, calling it "a tragic course of action" that would lead to "increased and prolonged violence" and threaten to destroy much of what has been built and hard won over the past 20 years. However, she noted that any efforts to install a militarily

imposed Government in Kabul would "go against the will of the Afghan people and against the stated positions of the regional countries and the broader international community". **Multiple Crises** Meanwhile, nearly one-third of Afghans face emergency levels of food insecurity, as drought worsens, and internal displacements increases. "The World Bank has estimated that as a result of the conflict, and the severe third wave of COVID, the drought, the weakened social fabric, and other factors, Afghanistan's poverty rate could rise from 50 per cent to more than 70 per cent", warned Ms. Lyons. Yet, despite highlighting the importance of international humanitarian aid, recent contributions toward the 2021 appeal for \$1.3 billion, remains only 30 per cent funded.

Civilian Casualties In the first quarter of the year, civilian casualties increased by 29 per cent compared to that of last year, the UNAMA chief said, noting that women casualties increased by 37 per cent and children by 23 per cent. "Parties must immediately...implement civilian protection measures", she stressed. And preserving women's rights remains "a paramount concern" that must not be used as "a bargaining chip at the negotiating table", added Ms. Lyons. "Human rights are not negotiable", she underscored, calling on the international community and regional countries to "reiterate the importance of these rights in the peace negotiations". **Ticking Clock** The UN official said there was barely time left "to prevent a worse-case scenario..." **P3**

Govt Estimates Wheat Yield Down 20% Due to Drought: Govt

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock said on Sunday estimated that wheat production in the country will be down 20% this year due to drought. The ministry figures indicate that wheat production in the country could be about 4 million (metric) tons this year, and the drought will reduce wheat yield by 1 million (metric) tons. Ministry officials said the drought has impacted 75 districts in various parts of the country, making life difficult for farmers and livestock owners. Akbar Rustami, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL), said: "Afghanistan's annual need is 6.4 million metric tons. Considering the 4 million metric tons of wheat production this year, we will have a deficit of 2 million metric tons." According to MAIL officials, the reduction in wheat yield will require Afghanistan to

import flour and wheat, which will lead to an increase in wheat prices. According to information provided by MAIL, 3 million heads of livestock in the country are in danger of dying this year due to a lack of feed and water. To prevent the loss of livestock and to meet farmers' problems, MAIL said that it has begun the process of distributing animal feed to farmers in cooperation with donor organizations. The State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs said the government has only limited resources on hand to address the drought's impact. "It is anticipated that the drought will impact the people of Afghanistan in several zones. In our drought management plan, we have divided areas that will be impacted by the drought into eight zones, and the southwestern, western, and northwestern zones will be



impacted by the drought more than other zones," said Abdullah Walizada, media adviser to the State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs. President Ghani has previously said that the Afghan government lacks the funds to address the impact caused by the drought. The Afghan government is working to determine the

amount required to address the drought challenges in the country, and once this is completed the government will request that donor institutions and countries contribute and provide these funds to Afghanistan, said officials at the State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs.

Egyptian...

the day, Sisi arrived in Baghdad, marking the first visit by an Egyptian head of state since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 and worsened Iraq-Egypt ties. Shortly after Sisi's arrival, King Abdullah II arrived to participate in the trilateral summit that aims to achieve economic partnerships that chart Iraq's new role in the region. Al-Kadhimi reportedly seeks to reach out to the Arab world to bolster Iraq's role in the region as a mediator to solve regional problems, including the conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The trilateral meeting was first scheduled to be held on March 27, but was postponed twice due to a tragic train collision in Egypt, and the events affecting the stability of Jordan. The leaders of the three countries have been working to strengthen economic and trade cooperation over the past few years with three summits being held since 2019.

Taliban Families...

reporters Sunday that violence and chaos could grip Afghanistan after the United States and NATO allies withdraw all their troops from the country by a September 11, VOA reported. "Violence is increasing there (in Afghanistan) and obviously Pakistan is worried about it," Qureshi said in Multan, in eastern Pakistan. According to VOA, he warned that if the Afghan security situation worsens and turns into a civil war, it would be detrimental for Afghanistan, but it could also undermine Pakistani gains against terrorism as well as trigger another exodus of Afghan refugees into Pakistan - which according to Pakistani officials already hosts more than three million Afghan refugees.

Xi Jinping...

National Congress of the CPC, Xi has been reflecting on the course of the Party's struggles during his inspections of revolutionary memorials across China in a bid to lead the Party and the country to create the future. Staying True to the Founding Mission Efforts should be made to educate and guide Party members and officials to stay true to

the original aspiration and founding mission of the Party, Xi noted, underlining following the philosophy of people-centered development and working unswervingly for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. For a ruling party that has long been in power, there is no greater danger than forgetting its original mission and alienating itself

from the people, he added. Xi demanded that the Party stick to self-reform, which provides a strong support for the Party's governance capacity. To brave hardships and move forward, Xi also urged officials to carry on the glorious traditions and fine conduct of the CPC, such as being modest and prudent, guarding against arrogance and rashness, working hard and leading a simple life.

Kabul Welcomes...

bilateral and multilateral relations were of vital importance. He supported in principle the proposed trilateral meeting, hoping it

would prove instrumental in further boosting regional consensus on the success of the Afghan peace process. Given the importance of practical cooperation between

the two countries, the foreign minister underscored convening of the sixth Joint Economic Commission meeting between Afghanistan and Iran.

Mol Bans...

support" them under the name of the local army within the Ministry of National Defense. Speaking at a plenary session of the House of Representatives on Monday, Rahmani said that the people's mobilization forces had taken up arms to defend the territorial integrity and values of the republican

system and to support the defense and security forces, and that their activities should be legalized. Rahmani added that a number of members of the House of Representatives have also mobilized against the Taliban in different provinces of the country. "We all have a duty to support our system and government in any way possible in the [current] sensitive

situation and to stand by our military forces," he added. On the other hand, the Speaker of the House of Representatives called on the members of the House of Representatives to seriously and comprehensively evaluate the fall of the districts and the reasons for it and to submit the results to the administrative board of the parliament in writing.

Time Running...

from materializing", pointing to the reality that "increased conflict in Afghanistan means increased insecurity for many other countries, near and far". "A fragmented conflict creates a more permissive environment for terrorist groups to recruit, finance, plan and conduct operations with a global reach", she attested, adding that one of UNAMA's key objectives is to "continue to work with all partners". Any future Government will need international engagement and support, she said, upholding that this is "not the time to weaken our resolve or, worse, to contribute even inadvertently to the ongoing signals of despair". "There is only one acceptable

direction for Afghanistan... away from the battlefield and back to the negotiating table", concluded the UNAMA chief. Corruption Ghada Fathy Ismail Waly, Executive Director, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) briefed ambassadors on cooperative agreements between her agency and UNAMA, including anti-corruption measures. Recalling the political declaration from the General Assembly's discussion on corruption, she highlighted UNODC's cross-border efforts to combat drug-related crimes and preserve Afghan's "hard won gains." Ms. Waly also drew attention to alliances between criminal


and terrorist elements pointing out that they have yielded the world's highest levels of casualties from terror attacks. Drug Crops Noting that the pandemic had not impacted large poppy harvests to fuel the world's supply of heroin, Ms. Waly linked the low prices to the degree with which the "illicit economy threatens peace." She urged that "evidence-based prevention and treatment" for narcotics be made a priority and called better guidance for Afghan police "imperative". Against this backdrop, the UNODC chief stressed the need for prompt action in the countryside to help limit production.

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Xi Jinping Stresses Creating New Achievements Ahead of CPC Centenary

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, stressed efforts to make new achievements that will stand the test of time and are worthy of the people, ahead of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC. Xi made the remarks on Friday when addressing a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Adhering to the Guidance of Scientific Theory

After visiting a four-story red brick building of great significance in the history of the Party, Xi called for deepening the understanding of the laws governing the development of the history of human society with Marxism. Dubbed "Red Building," the site was once the main campus of Peking University (PKU).

Within its walls, some of advanced Chinese youth, including Mao Zedong, developed the Marxist ideas that paved the way for the founding of the CPC. Marxism was first disseminated in China at the university. Saying that the realization of communism is the highest ideal and ultimate goal of the Party, Xi called for firmly upholding the faith in socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The reason why the CPC is so effective and why socialism with Chinese characteristics is so good is fundamentally because of the practice of Marxism, he said. The wide spread of Marxism in China has given birth to the CPC, and Marxism provided the Party with a scientific worldview and methodology, as well as a formidable theoretical tool to understand the world and effect change, he added. Since the 18th... **P3**



A look at the world

Egyptian, Jordanian, Iraqi Leaders Meet in Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi held a tripartite meeting with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and Jordanian King Abdullah II here on Sunday to enhance economic ties, security cooperation and regional stability. The meeting "is an important message to our people that we are mutually supportive and unified to serve our people and the people of the region," a statement of al-Kadhimi's media office quoted his opening remarks as saying. He said that the most important challenges facing the three countries are the COVID-19 pandemic,



difficult economic conditions, security and terrorism, according to the statement. Calling on the three countries to unify their stances, Al-Kadhimi said "we will continue to coordinate on major regional issues, such as the Syrian, Libyan, Yemeni and Palestinian files, to assist our brothers in these countries to bypass the challenges and crises." He noted that the three countries are in the stage of implementing projects in the fields of electrical interconnection, agriculture, transportation, and food security, as well as in the development of infrastructure in financial and banking relations, the statement said. Later in the day, a statement issued after the meeting said that the three leaders agreed to cooperate and coordinate in various areas, including the electrical interconnection and linking gas transport networks between Iraq and Egypt via Jordan, as well as building an oil pipeline connecting the Iraqi oil-hub of Basra to the Jordanian port of Aqaba. The statement added that Iraq and Jordan support Egypt's stance on the issue of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile River. It stressed the need to activate efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that meets all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. Earlier in... **P3**

Portugal to Invest 6.4B Euros in Science, Innovation Projects: PM



Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa said on Monday that the country's Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR) will invest 6.4 billion euros (7.64 billion U.S. dollars) in "science, knowledge and innovation" projects. According to the prime minister, the amount represents about 40 percent of the funds received from the European Union (EU) for Portugal's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. "Portugal's PRR introduces significant investments to stimulate research and innovation, and includes an ambitious package of reforms and investments," Costa said in a video address at the opening of "Science Meeting 2021," which takes place on June 28-30 at the Lisbon Congress Center. He pointed out that the objective is "administrative simplification and cost reduction, introducing many of the recommendations" of the European Commission. According to him, there will be the creation of "financing mechanisms that enhance investment in innovation, through an effective Development Bank with a long-term vision for the country, as well as the establishment of support rates of up to 100 percent for basic research and with incentive levels for companies." Costa revealed that the National Commission for Monitoring the PRR is already functioning. One of Portugal's targets is to raise the "total expenditure on research and development to 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP)" by the end of the decade. (1 euro = 1.19 U.S. dollars) **P2**

India's COVID-19 Tally Reaches 30.27M, Indonesia Witnesses Surging Infections

The COVID-19 pandemic was still raging in Asia-Pacific on Monday, as India's total tally rose to 30,279,331, with 46,148 new cases registered during the past 24 hours, said the health ministry. The death toll mounted to 396,730 as 979 deaths were recorded since Sunday morning. This is the first time that the number of daily deaths has fallen to below the 1,000 mark in nearly two and a half months. The daily death toll crossed 1,000 in India



on April 14. There are still 572,994 active cases in the country, as there was a fall of 13,409 cases during the past 24 hours. The confirmed cases in Indonesia rose by 20,694 within one day to 2,135,998, with the death toll adding by 423 to 57,561, the health ministry said on Monday. According to the ministry, 9,480 more people were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 1,859,961. The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) reported 5,604 new cases on Monday, bringing the total tally to 1,403,588. The death toll rose to 24,456 after 84 more patients died from the coronavirus epidemic, the DOH said. Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said in a televised press conference that strict quarantine rules will likely remain in July because of the presence of more transmissible variants of the COVID-19 virus. The Philippines has imposed tight border control in order to prevent the entry of highly infectious coronavirus variants into the Southeast Asian country, including the Delta variant first... **P2**



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