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Over 570 Taliban Militants Killed by Forces in Last 24 Hours: MoD

US-backed Afghan forces launched an offensive against Taliban militants in different locations across Afghanistan on Saturday, killing over 570 militants and injuring 309 others, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence stated. Afghan forces, with the support of the US Air Force, have launched retaliatory action against the Taliban which has been actively occupying territories in the country ahead of the formal exit of US troops. "572 Taliban terrorists were killed and 309 others wounded as a result of ANDSF operations in Nangarhar, Laghman, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Farah, Jowzjan, Sar-e...

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Iran Closes Key Border Crossing with Afghanistan as Violence Escalates

Iran has announced the closing of one of its most important border crossing with Afghanistan amid an intensification of the violence in the war-torn country. This comes as Afghan citizens are entering neighboring countries to escape the violence by the Taliban, Middle East Monitor reported. Mohammad Hadi Marashi, the provincial deputy governor for security affairs in Sistan and Baluchestan, told the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) that the border between Iran and Afghanistan in the Milak District of the province has been closed due to ongoing battles in the city of Zaranj, near the Iranian border. Marashi added: "The city of Nomruz in Afghanistan fell last night and the Taliban movement controlled most of the city's areas, before they retreated after military reinforcements arrived at the city." The Iranian official indicated: "The situation on the border is calm at the moment." He noted: "In order to protect...

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Taliban Captures Key Govt Buildings in Capitals of Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul



The Taliban have captured key government buildings in the capital cities of Sar-e-Pul and Kunduz provinces. The insurgent group had earlier on Sunday claimed to have captured both the provinces. On Friday the Taliban seized their first provincial capital, Zaranj in southwestern Nimroz, and followed it up a day later by taking

Sheberghan in Jawzjan the next day. "The Taliban have surrounded an army battalion on the outskirts of the city. All other parts of the city are under Taliban control," Mohammad Hussein Mujahidzada, a member of the Sar-e-Pul provincial council said on Sunday. The insurgents have taken government buildings in the northern provincial capital

of Sar-e Pul, driving officials out of the main city to a nearby military base, Mohammad Noor Rahmani, another provincial council member of Sar-e Pul province, said. He added that, "Government headquarters, including the governor's house, police command, and the National Directorate of Security compound, are captured by the Taliban."

Government forces fighting to retake installations

Of all the provincial capitals that the Taliban have launched assaults on since Friday, Kunduz – in the far north – is the most significant of the targets. "Kunduz has fallen; the Taliban have taken all the key installations in the city," an AFP correspondent said on Sunday. It has been a perennial target for the Taliban, who briefly overran the city in 2015 and again in 2016 but never managed to hold it for long. "Heavy clashes started yesterday afternoon, all government headquarters are in control of the Taliban, only the army base and the airport is with ANDSF (Afghan security forces) from where they are resisting the Taliban," Amruddin Wali, a member of the Kunduz provincial council, said. "The Taliban have reached the main square of the city. Aircraft are bombing them," said Abdul Aziz, a resident reached by phone. "There is total chaos." Rohullah Ahmadzai, the spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, said on Facebook that special forces were in Kunduz and had been conducting 'clearance operations' in the city to take back media offices...

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Play With Patriotic Spirit, Positive Mindset: ACB Chairman to Players

Afghanistan Cricket Board Chairman Farhan Yusefzai in a meeting with national squad urged them to play with a patriotic spirit and strive to give their best performance in the important series. He was talking to national players ahead of their tour of Sri Lanka where they face Pakistan in a three-match ODI series. ACB spokesman Farid Hotak told Pajhwok Afghanistan. Yusefzai added that not only ACB but the whole Afghan nation looks forward to witnessing great performance from the national team against Pakistan. He further stated, "Team unity..."

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'Pakistan Wants to Keep Afghanistan Feeble, Debilitated and Divided': Fabien Baussart

Pakistan has taken no concrete action to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Afghanistan as it wants to keep the war-torn country "feeble, debilitated and divided", said Fabien Baussart, the President of Center of Political and Foreign Affairs. In an opinion piece in Times of Israel, Baussart writes that Pakistan intended to use the suppressed and subjugated Afghanistan for geopolitical gains, which echoes views from the conflict-ridden country. Baussart said Afghanistan is worried that Pakistan is still supporting Taliban groups and allowing terror groups to operate from its soil. Afghan Ambassador to the UN Ghulam Isaczai said on Friday said the Afghan government is prepared

to provide the United Nations Security Council with material evidence in support of its claim that Pakistan is ensuring a supply chain to the Taliban. Afghanistan is witnessing a surge in violence as the Taliban has intensified its offensive against Afghan forces and civilians with the complete pullback of foreign forces just a few weeks away. Over the last few weeks, the Taliban have captured several districts in Afghanistan including Takhar, the country's northeastern province. Afghan officials accused Pakistan of providing air support to the Taliban. Last month, the Afghan Foreign Ministry accused Pakistani notorious spy agency -- ISI of abetting Taliban and training terrorists.



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani too lambasted Pakistan for not severing its ties with terrorist organizations groups and said that according to intelligence reports over 10,000 'jihadi' fighters had entered Afghanistan in the last month. He added that the Imran Khan-led Pakistan government had...

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Iran Closes Key

national interests, the region's army, border forces and police are fully stationed in the border area and on Ibrahim Bridge to monitor any possible Afghan movements." Iran, which shares 921 kilometres long border with Afghanistan, fears that the escalation of violence in the war-torn country will have a fallout effect in the neighboring countries. The country has three border ports with Afghanistan-the Dogaron port, which the Taliban took control over on 8 July, and the Islam Qala port. The Islam Qala port is an important transit route between the two countries, linking the Herat district to the Razavi Khorasan province, north-eastern Iran. The border between Afghanistan and Iran stretches over 921 kilometres. As the military conflict intensified in western Afghanistan, Afghan families fled to the Iranian border areas on Friday night. At the UNSC meeting on Afghanistan on Friday, member states expressed concern about the deteriorating situation and called for a political settlement.

Pakistan Wants...

failed to convince the Taliban to "negotiate seriously" in the ongoing peace talks. A UN report said that terrorists from a variety of countries including Pakistan continue to operate in Afghanistan. The 28th report of the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said that Pakistan-based terror group TTP has maintained ties with the Taliban as about 6,000 of its terrorists are on the Afghan side of the border. Despite ample evidence that suggests the contrary, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his country was neither "responsible" for the actions of the Taliban. "What the Taliban are doing or are not doing has nothing to do with us. We are neither responsible nor the spokesperson for the Taliban." (ANI)

Iraqi PM Says...

"the failure to provide a safe environment for early elections and the proliferation of out-of-control weapons." Iraq is scheduled to hold early elections on Oct. 10 in response to the anti-government protests against corruption and lack of public services. The previous parliamentary elections were held in Iraq on May 12, 2018, and the next elections were originally scheduled to take place in 2022.

By: Marvin G. Weinbaum

The 3 Myths That Sank the Afghan Peace Process

Many postmortems will be conducted about why the United States and the rest of the international community have struggled in their efforts to steer the Afghan conflict toward a negotiated settlement and left the country on the brink of a nasty, anarchic civil war. The answers provided are bound to cite missed opportunities, poor direction, and the work of spoilers. But underlying these and other explanations are the influence of three persistent myths, which created illusions about the Taliban and have guided much of our thinking about conducting peace talks. All three myths brought damaging concessions and false confidence in reaching an eventual agreement. While these myths may seem to have finally lost their hold, very recent developments in Afghanistan could see them revived.

The first of these myths has been our belief that since there is no realistic hope of a military victory over the Taliban, there necessarily had to be a negotiated political solution. It assumed that the Taliban had reached a similar conclusion, and that their leaders, having recognized a hurting stalemate, were ready for productive talks. That the Taliban were continuing to press ahead militarily and resisting a ceasefire agreement could be explained as mainly intended to improve their position in ongoing negotiations. It was also regularly argued that Afghanistan had changed too thoroughly as a society over the last 20 years to allow the Taliban to again monopolize power and impose an oppressive Islamic emirate. This view badly gauged the ability of the Taliban to shape the narrative and largely discounted the possibility of the conflict ending with the Taliban scoring an outright military victory or being a position to force a political agreement that effectively dictated the terms of surrender. The second of the myths held that the only route to peace was through negotiations with the Taliban. It presumed the two sides would, after a period of hard bargaining, arrive at a political solution, very likely in the form of a power-sharing arrangement. Faith in the possibility of reaching serious compromise with the Taliban persisted despite the experiences of months of talks, first with U.S. representatives and then in intra-Afghan talks, that revealed the Taliban's nearly complete unwillingness to budge substantively on any issue thought to violate their core beliefs or compromise on their goals. The Taliban also found that by standing firm on their demands, interlocutors, desperate



to show progress, would eventually yield on virtually every point in contention. The U.S. long resisted concluding that the Taliban saw negotiations not as a process of give and take but as opportunity to trumpet their demands and beliefs and win international legitimacy. It has been most difficult to concede that the clashing visions of an ideal Afghan state might be so vast that any efforts to reach a true compromise with the Taliban would be a fruitless exercise. A third myth has been that to be successful a peace process must be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. It became a mantra for foreign powers eager to convince Afghan political elites that they had no intention of imposing a political solution on the country. More subtly, it was meant to encourage the parties to the conflict to come to an agreement. No doubt, without the buy-in of Afghans no agreement can be achievable or sustainable. But any suggestion that Afghans can by themselves resolve their differences defies recent Afghan history. At no time in recent Afghan history have Afghans engaging in armed conflict at the national level succeeded in negotiating a political agreement. Of the five distinctive stages of consecutive Afghan civil conflicts since 1975, every one ended or transitioned as a result of the intervention of outside powers. At the Bonn conference in 2001, only the combined pressure of the U.S., Russia, and Iran made it possible for the delegations of the various victorious Afghan factions to agree on the framework of a post-Taliban government. Following the collapse of the communist regime in 1992, when Afghans were left entirely on their own to sort out their

differences, Afghanistan underwent its bloodiest civil war to date.

Dispelling these myths becomes especially important as the current conflict appears to be entering a critical new phase. With Taliban forces closing in on Afghanistan's urban centers, the morale of Afghan forces and the wider public rapidly sinking, and Afghan powerbrokers scrambling to find a means to protect their interests in a rapidly changing scene, the Taliban leadership could be poised to embark on a peace initiative very much in sync with its military surge.

In a recent statement attributed to Haibatullah Akhundzada and echoed by others, the emboldened Taliban's ordinarily silent leader announced that while his movement remains firmly committed to the establishment of an Islamic system, it also "strenuously favors" a negotiated political settlement. This is likely the prelude to a proposal to form an interim government in Kabul that, although appearing to share power, will be designed to pave the way for the constitutional changes intended to replace the current democratic Islamic republic with an Islamic emirate. The Taliban's well-crafted strategy does not count on an immediate payoff but rather is meant to lure Afghan negotiators into another round of talks on the Taliban's terms that encourage divisions among Afghan leaders. It is also aimed at capitalizing on the longing of the international community and the Afghan people for an end to conflict. The danger is that the three myths, so prominent in the recent past, may facilitate the return of the country to the cruel, turbulent 1990s.

By: Mohammed Ayoob

India's Afghanistan Quandary

America has cut and run. Pakistan and China are rubbing their hands in glee waiting to move in to fill the vacuum in Afghanistan left by the United States. Russia and Iran, although wary of the Taliban, are happy that the US has been shown up as a colossus with feet of clay despite the gloss being put by Washington on what amounts to a humiliating retreat. The only country with a major stake in the future of Afghanistan that is unhappy with the American decision is India—and for very good reasons. India has already pumped US\$3 billion since 2001 in developmental assistance into Afghanistan in order to prevent the exact scenario that is emerging now. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to India tried to paper over the cracks between American and Indian perceptions of the future of Afghanistan. Afghanistan was at the top of the agenda during

Blinken's talks with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, which ended with the bland statement that India and the US 'largely see Afghanistan in the same light. We're both committed to the proposition that there is no military solution to the conflict that afflicts Afghanistan.' This meaningless declaration ignores the fact that after withdrawal neither Washington nor New Delhi has any means of preventing a power grab in Afghanistan or a takeover of the country by the Taliban. The reasons why New Delhi agreed to put up a bravefront by endorsing the American formulation used as a fig leaf to hide the harsh reality of a Vietnam-like retreat and the expected fall of the Kabul government as predicted by American intelligence agencies are not hard to fathom. First, the Indian government knows that the Biden administration's decision to leave Afghanistan to its fate is irreversible

and New Delhi doesn't have sufficient leverage with Washington to force it to rethink its decision. Second, India doesn't want to create public acrimony on this issue because of its overriding interest in collaborating with the US bilaterally as well as through the medium of the Quad to contain the expansion of Chinese influence in the region. Third, the Modi government didn't want to add to the differences with the Biden administration on issues of human rights and freedom of expression already on display during Blinken's visit, despite the secretary's efforts to underplay American concerns on these issues in order not to annoy New Delhi and create a backlash. However, all this fudging can't hide the hard fact that India faces a quandary in terms of its policy towards Afghanistan. India was opposed to the Taliban regime in power in Afghanistan from the mid-

1990s until 2001 primarily because it saw it as a tool of Pakistani policy in two spheres. First, a pro-Pakistan government in Kabul was expected to provide Islamabad defence in depth in times of future conflict with India, thus to some extent neutralising India's conventional-power superiority. Second, Afghanistan under the Taliban had become a safe haven for Pakistani and Pakistan-trained terrorists that Islamabad deployed on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Kashmir in an effort both to make the state of Jammu and Kashmir ungovernable and to divert substantial Indian military capabilities into fighting the insurgency and keeping order in Kashmir. This is why India supported and secretly armed the Northern Alliance that was fighting the Taliban in northern Afghanistan. New Delhi is worried that if the Taliban return to power they will once again act as Pakistan's proxy. Although Taliban 2.0 projects itself as being different from

the original Taliban and its leaders have repeatedly stressed that it will not allow terrorist groups to operate from Afghanistan, its current rhetoric is seen as mere dissimulation by the Indian government. This is why India has refused to have direct contact with the Taliban, despite the fact that all other interested powers, including China and Iran, have held negotiations with them in anticipation of their coming to power in Kabul. New Delhi has denied recent reports emanating from Qatar that its external affairs minister met with the Taliban leadership in Doha in June. India is worried not only about Pakistan's increasing clout in Afghanistan but also about potential moves by India's other nemesis, China, in post-withdrawal Afghanistan, especially in light of Beijing's interest in roping in Afghanistan as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. A meeting between a Taliban delegation and the Chinese foreign minister on 28 July... **P3**

10,000 Tonnes of Essential Goods Enter Afghanistan Daily Through Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif Railway

The Afghan Railway Authority announced that the country's imports have increased through the Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif railway and that about 10,000 tons of goods needed for trade enter the country daily. Mohammad Farhang, a spokesman for the agency, said that the recent insecurity had affected exports and imports by rail to some extent, but fortunately, transfers through these routes have increased in recent days. The country's railway administration says imports via the Hairatan-Mazar-e-Sharif railway fell by an average of about 5,000 tonnes a few months ago, but now about 10,000 tonnes of essential goods

enter the country daily. Meanwhile, with the increase in imports of commercial property through the port of Hairatan, the prices of raw materials in the Kabul markets have slightly decreased. But sellers of oil and liquefied natural gas have not reduced oil and gas prices. However, the country's Chamber of Commerce and Industries says that the main reason for the rise in food prices in the country's markets is the payment of double customs, and says that both the government and the Taliban receive customs twice. Meanwhile, reports indicate that imports of goods from the Aqina Railway in Faryab province have resumed.



Play With Patriotic...

and hard work will lead you to victory." Yusefzai also recalled his meeting with H.E President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and delivered his best wishes for the national team. He added, "President appreciated your achievements and expressed his best wishes for further success of the national team." The ACB Chairman also added that the players will be rewarded handsomely if they perform well against Pakistan. He called on players to play with a strong and positive mindset to return good results. Concluding his remarks, Yusefzai applauded ACB CEO, Dr. Hamid Shinwari's management of executive affairs citing positive reforms. ACB CEO also addressed the meeting and called the upcoming contest a vital one for Afghanistan. In his address, Dr. Shinwari added that the recent training camps held for the national squad will prove helpful as it strengthened the skills of the players and mentally prepared them for the upcoming competition. Concluding the meeting, Captain Hashmatullah Shahidi delivered his remarks on behalf of the national team. He said, "With prayers from our fans and support from ACB, we feel confident and strive to win the upcoming contests. I have great respect for all my senior and junior teammates and, our preparation together will give us the positive morale that we need in the series ahead." Afghanistan National squad will soon travel to Sri Lanka for the ICC ODI Super League matches against Pakistan.

Turkish Security...

managing the airport to support Afghan brethren. Fires in Turkey Regarding the wildfires in Turkey, Akar said that the Turkish Armed Forces have provided resources and personnel to help put out wildfires that erupted in several parts of the country. Four drones, five landing ships, one patrol boat, four helicopters, more than 50 firefighter trucks, sprinklers, and over 600 personnel were provided by the Turkish Armed Forces, he added. When needed, the country's armed forces have mobilized all of their resources and capabilities, according to Akar, and the government has used their services in collaboration with relevant institutions and organizations.

Taliban...

that the Taliban had captured. Fighting was also reported on the outskirts of Herat, in the west, and Lashkar Gah and Kandahar in the south. Afghan government forces have largely abandoned the countryside to the militants, but are now scrambling to defend a string of cities across the country.

US air strikes

The pace of Taliban advances has caught government forces flatfooted, but they had some respite late Saturday after US warplanes bombed Taliban positions in Sheberghan. "US forces have conducted

several air strikes in defence of our Afghan partners in recent days," Major Nicole Ferrara, a Central Command spokesperson, told AFP in Washington. Kabul's inability to hold the north may prove crucial to the government's long-term survival. Northern Afghanistan has long been considered an anti-Taliban stronghold that saw some of the stiffest resistance to militant rule in the 1990s. The region continues to be home to several militias and is also a fertile recruiting ground for the country's armed forces. Sheberghan is the stronghold of notorious Afghan warlord

Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose militiamen and government forces were reported to have retreated to the airport. Dostum has overseen one of the largest militias in the north and garnered a fearsome reputation fighting the Taliban in the 1990s – along with accusations his forces massacred thousands of insurgent prisoners of war. Any retreat of his fighters would dent the government's recent hopes that militia groups could help bolster the country's overstretched military. The government has said little about the fall of the provincial capitals, other than vowing they would be retaken.

Over 570...

Pol, Faryab, Helmand, Nimruz, Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Kapisa provinces during the last 24 hours," Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence said in a tweet. The ministry also said that at least 45 Taliban militants, including three Pakistanis affiliated to terror group Al-Qaeda, were killed in airstrikes on the outskirts of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province of Afghanistan on Saturday night. Mawlawi Hijrat, the head of Taliban for Helmand, was killed in the airstrikes. In another airstrike

at Dand, Zherai districts and the outskirts of Kandahar provincial center, at least 47 Taliban militants were killed and 26 others were wounded, the Afghan Defence Ministry claimed. On Friday, the Afghan forces claimed to have killed 112 Taliban militants, including 30 Pakistanis, affiliated with Al-Qaeda at the outskirts of Lashkar Gah. Heavy fighting has taken place in and around Lashkar Gah and both US and Afghan government air forces have conducted airstrikes in the city. The Taliban control nine of the city's 10 police districts,

according to the Associated Press.

Taliban takes hold of Kunduz province

On Sunday, the Taliban took control of parts of the capital of Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan, the Associated Press quoted council member Ghulam Rabani Rabani as saying. Ghulam Rabani Rabani said most parts of Kunduz city were under the Taliban's control, with fighting around the governor's office and police headquarters. The main prison building in Kunduz was under Taliban control, he told AP.

India's...

in China has heightened these concerns. In the meeting, Mullah Baradar, who led the Taliban delegation, called Beijing a 'trustworthy friend' and said that the group wouldn't permit 'anyone to use' Afghanistan's territory. The reference to 'anyone' was obviously meant to reassure China that the Taliban won't allow insurgent Uyghur groups already active in Afghanistan to use the country to attack targets in China. Incidentally, this meeting followed a joint statement issued by the Pakistani and Chinese foreign

ministers on 24 July that the two countries will coordinate their policies and closely cooperate on Afghanistan, further adding to Indian apprehensions. New Delhi perceives these developments as potentially highly damaging to India's interests in Afghanistan, especially since the American withdrawal has made it almost certain that the Taliban will play a major role in governing Afghanistan even if they are unable to capture power single-handedly. The military advances made by the Taliban as American and allied forces have withdrawn have added to Indian fears. However, New

Delhi isn't in a position to affect the outcome on the ground primarily because it has no land borders with Afghanistan, unlike the other powers with stakes in the country. Furthermore, its major local ally, the Kabul government, appears to be on the brink of collapse because of endemic corruption, infighting and the steady disintegration of its armed forces. The endgame in Afghanistan could, therefore, signal a major reversal for India. This is likely to embolden both Pakistan and China to adopt more aggressive postures in their relations with New Delhi, thus further worsening India's security environment.

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Iran Nuclear Talks Could Resume in September: EU

Iran is ready to resume talks reviving the nuclear deal with world powers under new president Ebrahim Raisi, and meetings could take place in Vienna from early September, an EU official said on Saturday. The senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the EU's negotiator on the file, Enrique Mora, attended Raisi's swearing-in in Tehran Thursday and spoke with the Iranian official designated to take charge of the nuclear talks, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Amir-Abdollahian "is supposed to be the new foreign minister" in Raisi's cabinet, but that has not yet been announced, the EU official said in a statement. He added that it was unclear whether the nuclear talks would remain under the responsibility of the Iranian foreign ministry or be taken over by another body, such as Iran's National Security Council.

Raisi is a hardliner expected to consolidate the ultraconservatives' power during his four-year term. He succeeds the relatively moderate Hassan Rouhani whose landmark achievement during his own two-term presidency was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers: the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany. Former US president Donald Trump pulled out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions that have choked Iran's oil-dependent economy. Iran responded by walking back measures it had agreed to abide by. Talks have been happening since April in Vienna to find a way to bring both sides back into full compliance. The last round took place on June 20 with no date set for when they would continue. The EU chairs the meetings.



A look at the world

Turkish Security Forces Eliminate 18,313 Terrorists Since July 2015

Turkish Armed Forces have neutralized 18,313 terrorists since July 24, 2015, including 1,631 in Iraq and Syria since Jan. 1 this year, said the defense minister said on Saturday. "Turkish Armed Forces' story of heroism and sacrifice is not over, it continues. Mehmetcik (Turkish soldiers) continues to make history," Hulusi Akar said at an oath-taking ceremony for Maroon Berets who have successfully completed their 47-week-long special training in Ankara. Turkey's Chief of General



Staff Gen. Yasar Guler and the second chief of the Turkish General Staff, Lieut. Gen. Selcuk Bayraktaroglu, were also present at the ceremony. Akar emphasized that the fight against terrorism, which began on July 24, 2015, has continued through the Claw operations. The Claw operations are a series of military operations that Turkey launched in 2019 against terrorist organizations in northern Iraq, particularly the PKK. The PKK terror group often hides out in northern Iraq, just across Turkey's southern border, to plot terror attacks. Underlining that Turkey respects all of its neighbor's borders, sovereign rights, and laws, including those of Iraq, Akar added that the country will continue to stand by their Libyan and Azerbaijani brothers in their just cause.

Kabul airport

Touching upon the recent developments in Afghanistan, Akar said, "We have done our best, within our means, so that our Afghan brothers and sisters can live in safety and prosperity." Reiterating that the country has been working for 20 years to bring peace to Afghanistan, Akar added that Turkey has been operating the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul for the last six years and wants to continue ... **P3**

1 Police Officer Dead, Another Wounded in Chicago Shooting



One Chicago police officer died and another was wounded following a shooting late Saturday, officials said. Police said the officers were taken to University of Chicago Medical Center in "serious-to-critical" condition, news outlets reported. One of the officers — a woman — later died, Chicago Fire Department spokesperson Larry Langford told the Chicago Tribune. Other local news outlets also reported the death. Police also said two suspects were taken into custody, according to news outlets. It was not immediately clear what led up to the shooting. Meanwhile, News sources reported that another US logistics convoy was targeted in Nasirya, southern Iraq. The Saber News reported in breaking news today that a US military logistics convoy was targeted in Nasirya in southern Iraq. Iraqi companies carry US army requirements through the joint border with Kuwait into Iraq. US coalition logistics convoys are targeted by roadside bombs several times a week, sometimes several times a day, so the US military has outsourced equipment transportation to Iraqi private companies. Dozens of attacks on US troops have been reported since spring. A piece of legislation approved in the Iraqi parliament in early 2020 after the US assassination of Resistance forces commander near Baghdad airport has called for an end to the presence of the foreign troops in the country, something that has yet to be fulfilled.

Iraqi PM Says Gov't Determined to Hold Elections as Scheduled

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi announced on Saturday that his government and the political parties are determined to hold the parliamentary elections as scheduled on Oct. 10. Al-Kadhimi's comment came during his meeting with leaders of the political parties in the presence of Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi, head of the Supreme Judicial Council, the country's electoral commission, and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, the prime minister's media office said in a statement. He stressed his government's



insistence on holding the elections on time and confirmed its ability to provide an appropriate atmosphere for them, according to the statement. "Al-Kadhimi and the political parties renewed the call for the political blocs that boycotted the elections to reverse their decision," the statement said. Al-Kadhimi also suggested forming a committee of political parties to open a dialogue with the boycotting parties to persuade them to change their decision, it added. Earlier in July, a political bloc led by prominent Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced the withdrawal of his bloc from the parliamentary elections, citing "rampant corruption and unfair competition" among political parties. About a week later, the Iraqi Communist Party also withdrew from the elections, saying the political parties are "not serious" in achieving the demands of popular protests that broke out in 2019, and "the upcoming elections are nothing but a change of faces." Late last month, the Iraqi National Dialogue Front led by Salih al-Mutlak announced in a statement the withdrawal from the elections due to... **P2**



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