



New era begins as NATO forces withdraw from Afghanistan: Turkey's leading role in securing Kabul Airport



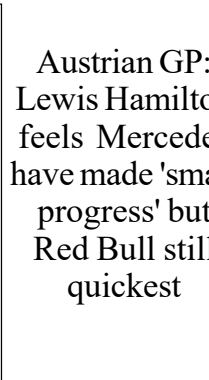
Joint security cooperation main goal behind Mithib's Moscow visit



Iran's new leader faces an existential economic crisis



Austrian GP: Lewis Hamilton feels Mercedes have made 'small progress' but Red Bull still quickest



Millions in India's northern states sizzle in severe heatwave

Afghan Air Force assures unblinking operations against insurgents

KABUL: President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani visited Afghan Air Force Command and inspected different parts, including the repair workshops for planes and helicopters, the air strikes management section and transport flight arrangements, when the air force personnel assured the president of unblinking operations against insurgents. The Commander of the Air Force and the U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Robert Phillips and his colleagues with the President and discussed the current status of the Air Force, a presidential palace statement said yesterday. Referring to the government's priority in aircraft maintenance and pilot training, First Vice President Amrullah Sadiq said new weapons being close to equip and strengthen the air force.

After listening to their information and suggestions, the President and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces thanked the Security and Defense Forces, especially the Air Force, for their efforts, and said that losses and expenditures to be disbursed for the benefit of the security and defense forces' martyrs, the presidential palace statement added.

Air Force personnel, in quotes of the statement, also assured the President and the people of Afghanistan of their full readiness, saying they have adequate equipment to conduct unblinking operations against insurgents.

The conference will be held on July 12-16 and the situation in Afghanistan will be discussed during this week. According to local desk media, the conference would be held at the initiative of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

This comes as border cooperation between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan following security threats and Taliban's attacks on border security check posts.

"The border Afghan security forces would spare no effort to provide security for the people and protection security of the trade ports as well as the traders," a statement from northern Balkh provincial governor office said yesterday, soon after the crossing reopened between the two countries. The Balkh provincial governor office said the crossing was reopened and there were no security threats along the highway. **The Kabul Times**

President Ghani to visit Tashkent for high level conference on Central & South Asia

KABUL: President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani will travel to Tashkent to attend a High Level Conference on Central and South Asia Regional Cooperation, local desk media reported.

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MoFA welcomes remarks by spokesperson of Russian Foreign Ministry

KABUL: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in a statement welcomed a statement by the spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the statement added. The statement said that the government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has always emphasized peaceful settlement of conflict and is committed to meaningful peace talks leading to comprehensive ceasefire and lasting peace in Afghanistan.

However, as the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan almost completed, the Taliban have threatened their attacks, the statement added. "While appreciating regional and international support to us, we have over the last two decades under the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, we call for establishment of an international committee to monitor the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2131," according to the statement.

"The monitoring of the committee will clearly affirm that the Taliban, while not fulfilling their commitments to peace, have escalated violence to a level that even threatens the security and stability of the region," the statement further said.

Saudi Arabia bans entry from UAE, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Afghanistan

KABUL: Saudi Arabia has banned the entry of citizens of United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Vietnam without prior permission, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Saturday, citing an official source at the Ministry of Interior.

Flights to and from these countries as well as Afghanistan will be suspended on Sunday, July 4, at 11 PM.

The source indicated there will be institutional quarantine for all passengers, whether citizens or foreigners, coming from these countries, after the date. Citizens who intend to return before that date will be quarantined institutionally. **The Kabul Times**

Pentagon approves new command structure in Afghanistan



KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health on Saturday reported 1,272 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 4,769 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

The ministry also reported 92 deaths and 935 recoveries from COVID-19 in the same period. This shows a slight increase in daily COVID-19 deaths as well as recoveries.

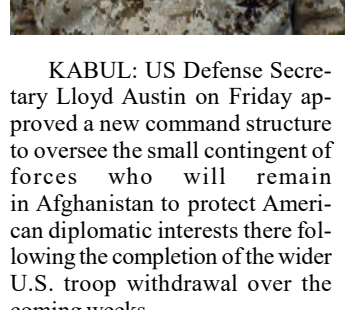
The number of total recorded cases is 124,757 and total deaths are 5,109, according to figures by the Public Health Ministry. Amidst the lack of oxygen at COVID-19 treatment centers in Kabul and other parts of the country, the acting minister of public health, Walid Maymoun, on Saturday said Afghanistan is now faced with another major problem: the emergency of COVID-related black fungus cases. Maymoun said that so far, three cases of COVID-related black fungus cases have been reported in Kabul, Bughlan and Samangan provinces. He said that there is an urgent need for people to consider precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. Maymoun added that 1.4 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine donated by the United States will arrive in the country by the end of this week. Johns Hopkins University reports that the number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 3.6 million and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 183,124,067. **The Kabul Times**

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spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

Officials said that going forward, the U.S. mission in Afghanistan will have four objectives: providing the different mission requirements at Hamid Karzai International Airport, advising and assisting Afghan forces "to appropriate" and continuing counterterrorism assistance.

"A safe, orderly drawdown enables us to maintain an ongoing diplomatic presence, support the Afghan people and the government, and prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for terrorism that threatens our homeland," said Mr. Kirby.

As part of the drawdown, the command structure, Sec. Austin also approved the creation of a new command - U.S. Central Afghanistan Forward - that will be based in Kabul. Heading this office will be Navy Rear Adm. Patrick Leahy, who will report to Gen. McKenzie.

The new structure transfers authority over roughly 600 troops who will remain in Afghanistan from Army Gen. Scott Miller to Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the Florida-based head of U.S. Central Command.

Gen. Miller, who has led NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan since 2013, will remain in the region "for a number of weeks" to complete the transfer of command to Gen. McKenzie, officials at the Pentagon said.

"We will continue to exercise authority over the conduct of any and all counterterrorism operations needed to protect the homeland from threats emanating out of Afghanistan," chief Pentagon

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Terrorists misusing cultural, national values: Hakimi

KABUL: Talibaning government's enemies misusing cultural and national values for their own vicious goals.

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