



# Islamabad POST

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**Looking forward to boost multi-domain relations with the EU**

Detailed News On Page-01

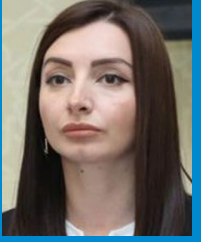
**PIA's services during Afghan crisis lauded**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Azeri-Turkish joint drills serve regional stability**

Detailed News On Page-07



## Briefs

### PM plans to attend Expo 2020 Dubai

**ZUBAIR AHMAD**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has planned to attend Expo 2020 Dubai, being held from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, on October 9. It is pertinent that Expo is a platform that will serve as a stimulus to accelerate economic activities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. PM Khan will address the Expo on October 9 and will also hold key meetings with foreign investors and Pakistani community on the sidelines of the event.

### Pak must accept will of Afghans

**KHAYAM ABBASI**  
ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said on Wednesday that Pakistan must accept the will of the Afghan people and refrain from imposing its decision on Afghanistan. She made this statement in response to a query from a journalist asking whether Pakistan should recognise the new Taliban government in Afghanistan. Talking to media in Islamabad, Maryam suggested that Pakistan collaborate with the international community for rehabilitating people and rebuilding infrastructure in the war-torn country. The PML-N leader said Afghanistan was a sovereign country and insisted that Pakistan must not interfere in the internal matters of the neighbouring country.

### Minister dies trying to save man

**AGENCIES**  
**MOSCOW:** A Russian government minister who once served in President Vladimir Putin's security detail died in the Arctic on Wednesday while trying to save the life of a film director who fell into a river, his ministry said. Yevgeny Zinichev, 55, a close Putin ally who had headed the high-profile emergencies ministry since 2018, was in the remote city of Norilsk to oversee large-scale training exercises in the region.

## Pak against arms race in the region

**NCA expresses confidence in the command and control systems as well as security measures to ensure security**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
ISLAMABAD: The National Command Authority (NCA) on Wednesday asserted that Pakistan would take all measures to ensure the strategic stability in the region without entering into an arms race. Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired 25th meeting of the NCA held here at the Headquarters of Strategic Plans Division. All members of the NCA including Federal Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance and Interior; Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force; and Director General Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) attended the meeting. According to a press release issued here by the PM Media Wing, NCA expressed full confidence in the command and control systems as well as security measures in place to ensure comprehensive security of strategic assets of Pakistan. The NCA re-affirmed that Pakistan as a responsible nuclear state would continue to contribute meaningfully towards the global efforts to improve nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation measures.

### UAE lauds Pakistan's role on Afghan issue

**STAFF REPORT**  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said UAE is the biggest trading partner of Islamabad and Pakistani pavilion at the upcoming Dubai Expo will be unique and one of its kind. Talking to United Arab Emirates Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said the ministries of commerce and information are making strenuous efforts for the mega event. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said UAE is home to 1.6 million Pakistanis.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairing 25th meeting of the NCA held here at the Headquarters of Strategic Plans Division. - DNA

## Pakistan warns against Afghan humanitarian crisis

**The participants welcomed Pakistan's initiative to organize the meeting and concurred on the importance of the mechanism of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries**

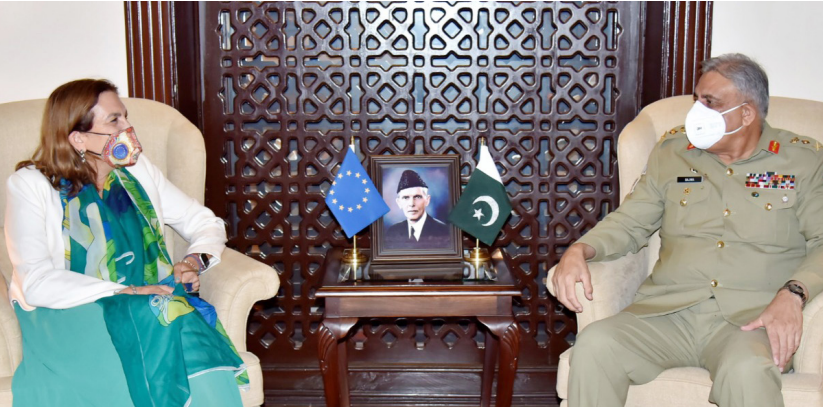
**STAFF REPORT**  
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi chaired the Ministerial meeting on the Afghan issue among the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, held virtually on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the evolving situation in Afghanistan for a regional approach. Sharing Pakistan's perspective, Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized the importance of proceeding with a realistic approach in view of the changed reality in Afghanistan. He added that the well-being of the Afghan people must remain the focus, as they had suffered enormously due to prolonged conflict and instability for more than forty years. The Foreign Minister underlined that a shared approach would help Afghanistan on its path to peace and stability and would result in enhanced economic integration and realization of connectivity projects.

### Aid for Afghanistan dispatched

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has decided to dispatch humanitarian assistance comprising food and medicines for the people of Afghanistan. Three C-130s are being dispatched to Afghanistan. After the first immediate tranche through air, further supplies would continue through land routes. The Government of Pakistan would

## Multi-domain ties with EU priority, says COAS

**Army Chief's remarks came during a meeting with EU envoy Androulla Kaminara**



RAWALPINDI: Androulla Kaminara, Ambassador of European Union (EU) called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

**MAHNOOR ANSAR**  
RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday said Pakistan valued its relations with European Union (EU) countries and was earnestly looking forward to enhancing mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests. The remarks by the army chief came during a meeting with EU Ambassador Androulla Kaminara who called upon the COAS, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The military's media wing stated that during the meeting, matters of mutual interest, the regional security situation including the current situation of Afghanistan and enhanced bilateral cooperation with the EU were discussed. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghanistan, including the successful evacuation operations, efforts for regional stability and pledged to play their role for further improvements in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels, the ISPR added. In August General Bajwa said Pakistan desired to maintain a long-term and enduring relationship with the United States.

### World reacts as Taliban announces new govt

**NEWS DESK**  
KABUL: The Taliban has announced an all-male caretaker government drawn exclusively from its inner echelons, including a man under United Nations sanctions as prime minister and another on a United States "terrorism" list as interior minister. The names announced for the new government on Tuesday, three weeks after the Taliban swept to military victory as US-led foreign

## 'Pakistan highly values relations with Poland'

**Polish Foreign Minister had a telephone conversation with Shah Mehmood Qureshi**

**STAFF REPORT**  
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Pakistan attaches special importance to bilateral relations with Poland. According to details, Polish Foreign Minister Zignorau had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in which bilateral relations between the two Foreign Ministers and the emerging situation in Afghanistan were discussed. Besides exchange of views on the unfolding situation in Afghanistan, the two foreign ministers also discussed bilateral relations, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised the Polish foreign minister of Pakistan's perspective on Afghanistan, stressing the need for peace, stability and security as well as economic well-being of the Afghan people. He underlined the importance of engaging with Afghanistan and positive messaging on part of

# Challenges ahead for the new Afghan govt

**OPINION**  
**ANSAR M BHATTI**  
THE Taliban has finally unveiled much-awaited government, which has taken many by surprise for a variety of reasons. First, the announced head of the government is not the one which was expected. Mullah Baradar was widely seen as the likely head of the government but instead Mullah Hasan has been picked up for the job albeit for an interim period. Mullah Hasan was heading the powerful Taliban shura that used to make all key decisions. Then, there is nobody in the government from the opposition side, which means the idea of an inclusive government appears to have been shelved by the Taliban leadership, although it says the plan of an inclusive govt was very much on the table. Similarly, no woman has been taken on board. This is one of the reasons that the initial response from the USA towards formation of the govt turned out to be hostile. As one of the Taliban leaders opined, the US response would have been hostile even if there were an all-inclusive set up. In that case the US would have come up with some other excuse. But practically the US stance on the issue does matter and Taliban need to have working relations with the leading power when it comes to recognition of the Afghan govt by the international community. This newspaper has published a story regarding internal differences among various Taliban ranks and after the announcement of the interim govt it appears the differences are still there. Taliban has not pronounced Mullah Hibatullah as the supreme leader because according to the previous reports some of the Taliban leaders do not seem eye to eye with this proposition. The nascent Afghan govt, which appears to be a stopgap arrangement according to Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, has to face a number of challenges. The first and foremost task shall be how to form an all inclusive government. After the Panjshir episode, the top Taliban leadership is reluctant to take on board anybody from the Northern Alliance. But their friends both from within and without Afghanistan are said to have advised them accommodate the opposition parties as well, even if you don't like the idea. The economic challenges seem to be even of a bigger magnitude. For the moment Taliban does not have even a single penny to run the day to day affairs. The government servants including the police and military whatsoever have not been paid for last many months. Therefore the daunting task in front of the incumbent government shall be as to how and from where to generate funds. Cash aid from friendly countries such as China, Turkey, Qatar and to some extent Pakistan appears to be a quick fix solution. This kind of aid ostensibly will have a price also but in the given circumstances that may be the only available way out until and unless Taliban comes out with something magical. Then, creation of a military as well as police force shall also be a hard nut to crack because both these institutions have literally gone bankrupt. Majority of police and military personnel have either left the job or went into hibernation fearing a possi-

ble crackdown from the Taliban leadership. The allied forces trained and rather indoctrinated the security people against Taliban, and this is also a fact that these security people did their best to eliminate Taliban. In this backdrop, both can find it difficult to co-exist. ISI chief Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed's Kabul visit drew huge world attention, especially from the Indians. As a matter of fact he was not the only head of spy agency rather heads of Turkish and Qatari spy agencies were also present in Kabul that day. Pakistan was approached by some countries including the UK to help evacuate people via Torkham border. Pakistan could do this only with the approval of the Taliban leadership. Apart from that, there is no denying the fact that in the coming days Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey and China will have a key role in Afghanistan. Taliban may have some reservations about Pakistan govt recent steps to fence the border, however they have to reconcile with this reality for the ultimate good of regional peace and stability. On the question of recognition of the Taliban govt, Pakistan has rightly observed that it would be too early to discuss this possibility. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi while speaking during a conference of six neighboring countries stressed for an Afghan led and Afghan owned solution besides calling upon the international community to help Afghans at this critical juncture. He also suggested a regular consultative process among the neighbouring countries as all these countries have a direct stake in Afghanistan. It chiefly depends on Taliban as to how do they conduct themselves in the coming days. They have reiterated more than once that they would try to live up to the expectations in terms of formation of an inclusive government and ensuring that the Afghan soil is not used against any other country. Taliban need to be given adequate time to prove their commitments because realistically speaking Taliban has to start from a scratch therefore in some cases the govt may take more time than expected, to fulfill its vows made to the international community.

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## TTP's warning

IN one of the more bizarre and troubling reports to emerge this week, it was revealed that the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has issued a stark warning to national media and journalists, asking them to refrain from calling them a "terrorist outfit" or they will be treated as enemies. This delusional statement was released by the TTP on social media, where its spokesman Mohammad Khurasani stated that the group was keeping track of critical media coverage where they are being termed as extremists and terrorists. Such threats coming from banned terrorist groups is of serious concern. Not only is the resurgence of this group a grave national security threat, but the sense of entitlement underscoring this statement must also raise eyebrows. Under no circumstances can we allow the group to regain its strength on our soil and pose a threat to our citizens. There should be no need to spell this out given the wave of militancy and violence that we have had to overcome during the last decade. Several Pakistan journalists—particularly in erstwhile FATA and KP—have been assassinated, wounded and kidnapped in the war against terrorism across the country. Keeping this in mind, such statements cannot be taken lightly and state authorities need to be vigilant going forward. Just this week, the TTP claimed responsibility for the tragic suicide attack that was carried out in Quetta. If the attack was indeed planned in Afghanistan and facilitated by India as the Interior Minister has claimed, then it is imperative that this matter be taken up with the Afghan Taliban and the international community at the earliest. A lot of lives have been sacrificed in fighting this menace and we cannot afford a repeat of this doomsday scenario.

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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Introducing 5G

5G, the fifth generation technology standard for broadband cellular networks, and successor to 4G, has been a late guest to Pakistan. While millions of people worldwide have access to 5G, the technology standard is not yet available in Pakistan. However, now a timeline has been estimated for when Pakistan will roll out 5G—the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom has announced that it is aiming to roll out 5G in 2023. This is still quite some time to go. The GSMA, in a report titled "The Mobile Economy Asia Pacific 2021", has projected that Pakistan will be at the lowest end in terms of smartphone users as well as in the 5G coverage. Pakistan is behind countries like Brunei Darussalam, India and Cambodia, which are set for 5G roll-outs in 2022, and a far cry from South Korea, Australia, Maldives and New Zealand, which rolled out 5G in 2018 and 2019. However, it is hoped that a timeline will provide impetus for telecom providers to get on infrastructure development. The Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque said key initiatives have been taken which will help the country surpass the projections made by the GSMA. There has been some positive development—exports of cell phones are a burgeoning potential trade area for Pakistan. According to the Minister Amin Ul Haque, the government is hoping to increase exports of IT services up to \$5bn by the end of 2022-23. However, rather than concentrating on a few areas, the government also needs to lend attention to widening the user base in the country. Accessibility and infrastructure are weak points—as the pandemic and lack of success of online schools have shown. The widening user base needs better and improved infrastructure for the digital economy to truly flourish, along with ensuring that the internet is accessible beyond just urban areas.

# Palestine: An open-air museum of colonialism

Omar Khalifah



Open-air museums seek to give visitors a direct experience of what it was like to live in the past. When I tell foreign friends that settler-only roads surround my tiny village, Burin, located a few kilometres southwest of Nablus in the West Bank, they respond with a disbelieving gasp. For many, it is inconceivable to imagine colonial-era conditions in our time, and yet they have been the status quo in Palestine for decades

ON a recent visit to Palestine (I belong to a category of Jordanian Palestinians who can visit Palestine using an Israeli-issued ID card), a Palestinian friend of mine in Ramallah invited me to drive with him to Bethlehem. Thirty minutes into the trip, we stopped at an Israeli checkpoint, pulling into a huge queue of cars. The place was engulfed by an apathetic silence, perhaps indicative of how normal the situation was for those experiencing it. I, however, felt increasingly impatient, and I asked my friend if it would take too long before we were allowed to move. My friend responded, rather sarcastically, "This is Palestine. You can never predict when to move or to stop. People have lost any sense of what a meeting time means. You arrive when you arrive." Welcome to Palestine – an open-air museum of colonialism. For most people nowadays, colonialism is part of a bygone era. The majority of the world's population has no first-hand experience of it, and many cannot imagine what it means to live under total foreign control. Today we have museums of colonialism, where people can go to learn about how this form of rule affected natives' freedoms to live, to move, to speak, to work, and even to die peacefully. We live (supposedly) in a postcolonial world, and museums of colonialism serve to transport visitors back to a cruel era, granting them a glimpse of the damage this type of governance wrought on native communities. What if, however, there were an actual place in our world today where colonialism and post-colonialism co-existed? Herein lies the sad, almost incomprehensible Palestinian contribution to the museum industry. If museums of colonialism reimagine the past in a modern setting, Palestine is both past and present – a colonial and postcolonial reality. In Palestine, there is no need to create a museum of colonialism: the whole country functions as such. At any museum, you can expect to be able to explore different sections on different themes. The same holds true in Palestine – it has various sections, each displaying a different layer of colonialism. There is the West Bank, where you can see illegal Israeli settlements, expropriated land, a separation wall, and a physically controlled population. Then there is Gaza, where open-air museum meets open-air prison, as two million Palestinians have been living under an Israeli blockade for more than 15 years. And if you are more into surveying a surreal case of colonialism, then head to Israel

proper and find out how Palestinians who stayed in historic Palestine after the foundation of Israel live. There, you will learn about stolen houses, demolished villages, second-class citizens, and institutionalised racism. Open-air museums seek to give visitors a direct experience of what it was like to live in the past. When I tell foreign friends that settler-only roads surround my tiny village, Burin, located a few kilometres southwest of Nablus in the West Bank, they respond with a disbelieving gasp. For many, it is inconceivable to imagine colonial-era conditions in our time, and yet they have been the status quo in Palestine for decades. People who would like to learn about colonialism need look no further than Palestine. It is colonialism incarnate. Recognising 21st century Palestine as an open-air museum of colonialism casts the longstanding Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a different light. During the latest war in Gaza, some supporters of Israel legitimised its use of force by noting that any sovereign state would have reacted similarly to defend itself had it been under rocket fire from another state. Hamas launched rockets into Israeli territory, so this logic goes, and so Israel has a right to fight back. This repeated argument ignores one crucial reality of the situation: Gaza is not a state. The West Bank is not a state either. In fact, there is no Palestinian state. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is not one between two sovereign states. Rather, it is a conflict between a colonised people and their coloniser. Framing Palestine as a colonial question is essential to understanding the peculiarity of the Palestinian condition. For many people around the world, Palestine is an enigma. How is it that for so long Palestinians have been stuck in a situation that is seemingly so unchangeable, fixed, intractable? Statelessness, uprooting, refugeehood, and resistance have practically become permanent descriptors of Palestinians. The conflict between Palestinians and Israelis has evolved into a cornerstone of our modern soundscape – something always happens there, except what happens never brings about any serious change to the status quo. If Palestine is often viewed as a persistent dilemma whose resolution is long overdue, it is because Palestine is more of an anomaly than an enigma. Palestinians have not enjoyed the kind of history that most people in the colonial era have. In most cases, the story of former colonies followed a linear path:

colonialism, anti-colonial struggle, and then independence – a new nation-state. This pattern was so forceful and the defeat of colonialism so successful that the last few decades have witnessed the emergence of a powerful new field of intellectual inquiry aptly named "postcolonial studies". Ironically, one of the grand masters of this field was Palestinian – the late Edward Said. Not so for Palestinians. Unlike other would-be nations in the Middle East, such as Jordan, Iraq, and Syria, Palestine did not witness an end to a British or French Mandate that would lead to the formation of an independent nation-state. Rather, the termination of the British Mandate of Palestine in 1948 led to what Palestinians view as another form of colonialism. The Zionist movement, which would form Israel and result in the destruction of Palestinian society and the ethnic cleansing of Palestine (a series of events known in Palestinian historiography as the Nakba, or Catastrophe), has successfully managed to halt the linear progression of Palestinians' path to self-determination. Both before and after 1948, Palestinians have been struggling to resist first, British and then, Zionist colonialism; realise their dream of a free, independent state; and cast off their own specific, multilayered experiences of imperialism. Put bluntly, Palestinians have yet to enter the post-colonial world order. As individuals, they live in the 21st century, but as a stateless nation, they are still captive to the pre-1948 colonial moment. This is the anomaly of Palestinian time: as Columbia University professor Joseph Massad characterises it, Palestine can be understood as a "postcolonial colony", a region where two periods, two world views, two eras, fiercely collide. This is why it functions as an open-air museum of colonialism – it is at once past and present, with the exploitative policies and practices of colonialism on perpetual display. It is dangerous to view Palestine as solely a human rights issue – it is drastically more. Palestinians are a living demonstration of what colonialism looks like. They simultaneously belong and do not belong to the postcolonial order. For them, 1948 is not just a memory – it is an ongoing reality, a moment in time that has been stretched to define who they are, and who they are not. Palestine has been turned, brutally, into a permanent museum of colonialism whose doors should have closed long ago.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

# Urgent action needed to save Afghanistan

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg



UN Security Council Resolution 2593, adopted on Aug. 30, is a step in the right direction, despite China and Russia's abstentions. Now is the time to ensure its proper and speedy implementation. One of the most important issues should be to establish a mechanism between willing friends of Afghanistan for regular coordination and consultation

IT is now clear that the 20-year effort by the US and its European allies to turn Afghanistan into a stable, democratic country has failed. It is important to remember, however, that the invasion was the brainchild of neoconservatives, who were the main driving force behind the twin invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. Many others were opposed at the time. America's humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan should put an end to those grand neocon designs, which failed at almost every turn. That may also be true for those US plans for Afghanistan's future, which were put together on the assumption that Ashraf Ghani's government was stable and would survive the troop withdrawal. US planners now need to come up with updated plans for America's role in Afghanistan and discuss them with allies and partners, whose own plans were thrown asunder by last month's turn of events. To write off Afghanistan is not an option, as the instability of the country would spill over into the region and create problems that may be more difficult to tackle in the future. In a sign of the limited options articulated to deal with the new crisis, the London-based Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that the UK government is discussing a proposal to blacklist Afghanistan and allow the London authorities to jail people for up to 10 years if they are proven to have visited the outlawed territory. This is obviously not a solution. Besides Afghanistan itself, the Western alliance is the most notable casualty of the Afghanistan debacle. Reports from Brussels hint at a real disappointment among European allies in the way the US and NATO exits were managed. The 27 EU member countries and its institutions are confronting the reality of near-total reliance on US military plans and grasping for new policy options. Despite the fact that 21 EU member states are also members of NATO, they were not able to

adjust the withdrawal plans to allow Kabul airport to remain open for a few more days or weeks to handle evacuations and receive urgent humanitarian assistance. Josep Borrell, the EU's top diplomat, last week wrote an op-ed in The New York Times calling for serious discussions about the EU's over-reliance on the US and the need for better coordination and burden-sharing. Roland Freudenstein, policy director of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, a think tank associated with the center-right European People's Party, was quoted as saying that much of Europe "is indeed in pretty deep depression now." He added that the widespread gloom reflected the dashed hopes that, despite corruption in the Western-backed Afghan government and the weakness of the Afghan security forces, somehow the mission could succeed. "There were people who didn't want to see the writing on the wall. There were people who were deluding themselves," he said. The joint meetings of EU defense ministers and foreign ministers held in Brussels last week took a decision to set benchmarks for engaging with the Taliban, but made no public announcement about dealing with the security fallout from the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. A lengthy written statement issued by European Council President Charles Michel bemoaned Europe's inability to change matters for the better in Afghanistan and asked: "As a global economic and democratic power, can Europe be content with a situation where it is unable to ensure unassisted the safety and evacuation of its diplomats, its citizens and those who have helped them and are therefore under threat?" He added: "Europe must rapidly make choices connected to its strategic interests." While these are important issues that need to be sorted out between the US and its allies and part-

ners, there are more urgent issues at hand. There is a clear need for Afghans and their friends, including the US, NATO and the country's neighbors, to develop new policies and action plans to deal with the crisis, starting with assessment of the risks and threats emanating from the vacuum left by the Western troop withdrawal and subsequent collapse of the government. Those risks and threats include civil war, terrorists regrouping, worsening COVID-19 conditions, and a severe economic crisis after the International Monetary Fund and World Bank halted aid and the US froze Afghanistan's reserves and stopped the shipment of currency to the country. UN Security Council Resolution 2593, adopted on Aug. 30, is a step in the right direction, despite China and Russia's abstentions. Now is the time to ensure its proper and speedy implementation. One of the most important issues should be to establish a mechanism between willing friends of Afghanistan for regular coordination and consultation, and to send the Afghan people a message of reassurance and solidarity. The coordination of humanitarian assistance is also urgent and could be carried out by the group. It is probably too early for most countries to take a clear political position on the situation, which may complicate their work with some Afghan factions, but a call should go out to all Afghan parties to engage in negotiations toward a political solution. It should be emphasized by the group that the international community is ready to engage with all Afghan factions to facilitate the delivery of aid, but also to prevent the country from once again becoming a haven for terrorists. The US, UK and France led the process of adopting Resolution 2593, which makes it appropriate for them to lead the process of implementing it, with UN help.

– Courtesy: Arab News





