

Daily Tracker

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Afghanistan

- With the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan complete, uncertainty abounds about the country's future under the Taliban government. Four questions will be key in the coming weeks, with their answers serving as signposts for the country's possible trajectory. What will the government look like? Will the international community assist Afghans? What is Washington's counterterrorism policy?
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/02/afghanistan-taliban-us-withdrawal-future/>
- America's former envoy to the United Nations Nikki Haley warned that China might move to take over the Bagram air force base in Afghanistan and also "use Pakistan to get stronger to go against India".
<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/china-eyeing-afghanistan-s-bagram-air-base-may-pakistan-india-former-us-envoy-nikki-haley-1848291-2021-09-02>
- The Taliban are expected to announce a new government in Afghanistan within hours, as chaos in the country deepened and aid experts warned of imminent economic collapse.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/02/afghanistan-taliban-expected-to-announce-new-government>
- As the Taliban are at the helm of affairs in Afghanistan and are all set to announce their new government, they are staring at a major financial crisis. But an analysis by Pakistan-based Frontier Post says that the Taliban raise more than one and a half-billion dollars a year through "trafficking of opium and heroin, taxes imposed on territories which were under Taliban control". In addition, there is money from Pakistan and Gulf countries, the analysis quoted by news agency ANI said.
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/where-do-taliban-get-their-money-from-drugs-and-mysterious-sponsors-experts-101630550413767.html>
- The Al-Qaeda has joined the Taliban in the groups offensive in the Panjshir valley, Ahmad Massoud's forces say, Al Arabiya reported. Earlier reports on Wednesday had said that fighting is ongoing between Taliban fighters and the forces of a resistance front lead by Ahmad Massoud in Panjshir province. The Taliban confirmed that the fighting has been ongoing for two days and both sides have suffered casualties,
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/newsblogs/latest-daily-news-and-updates-september-02/liveblog/85854590.cms>
- Clashes flared in northern and central Afghanistan between the Taliban and local militias on Wednesday, as the Islamist movement continued to consolidate its grip on

power in the Afghan capital two days after the U.S. ended its 20-year presence in the country.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-battle-opposition-militias-wield-new-power-in-kabul-11630495864>

- As the Taliban work to form government in Afghanistan, there have been new warnings that the war-torn country's aid-dependent economy is on the verge of collapse following the rapid withdrawal of US troops.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-03/afghanistan-taliban-us-economy-hunger-war-terrorism/100430828>
- China established its first diplomatic contact with the [Taliban](#) in Kabul, just a week after the militant group took control of Afghanistan. “China and the Afghan Taliban have unimpeded and effective communication and consultation,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing. China has over the past two decades of US-led governance of Afghanistan, maintained a low profile, quietly observing as the longest war in history raged on taking its toll in terms of both resources and lives. But now, as Zhou Bo, an expert on the Chinese Army’s strategic thinking on international security, wrote in his op-ed for *The New York Times*, “Beijing has few qualms about fostering a closer relationship with the Taliban and is ready to assert itself as the most influential outside player in an Afghanistan all but abandoned by the United States.”
<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/afghanistan-crisis-taliban-takeover-china-7472999/>
- The last American military flight left the airport and disappeared into the Kabul sky on Monday -- and minutes later, the Taliban flooded the streets around the city's last exit point, filling the night with celebratory gunfire. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid framed the militant group's dramatic takeover of Afghanistan as a nationalist success, telling a small crowd: "This victory belongs to us all." But for thousands of Afghans, the final Western flights took with them a last chance to leave the country. Many now fear their new realities; in particular, women, religious minorities, LGBTQ people, journalists and others face brutal treatment under the group's radical interpretation of Sharia Law.
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/09/02/asia/afghanistan-taliban-leadership-cmd-intl/index.html>

Pakistan

- Religious minorities in Pakistan have accused the government of undercounting them in the latest census data published in May, four years after the survey was conducted. The survey for the sixth Population and Housing Census was undertaken under former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and got completed in 2017. The results, however, were delayed after some provinces, including Sindh and Balochistan flagged the issue of undercounting.
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pakistan-faces-accusations-of-undercounting-hindus-christians-in-latest-census-101630602766899.html>
- India is closely watching the Taliban's stance towards Pakistan as it appears imminent that the outfit will form the next government based in Kabul or Kandahar in the next few days. The concern in this regard is shaped by the fact that Sher Mohammed Stanekzai, head of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, met India's envoy to Qatar, giving the first sign that channels of communication between the two sides are now open.
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-watches-keenly-as-taliban-pakistan-ties-remain-in-focus/article36260667.ece>
- Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced celebrations and prayers on Friday across the country on the withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan, news agency ANI reported on citing neighbouring country's vernacular media.
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pakistans-jamaat-e-islami-announces-celebration-over-us-withdrawal-report-101630635596413.html>
- Peace and stability in Afghanistan will unlock a business bonanza for *Pakistan* in Central Asian states and the business community should gear up to capitalise on these emerging opportunities, said President Arif Alvi.
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2318320/stability-in-afghanistan-to-open-new-avenues-for-pakistan>