

Afghanistan

Row hits Afghan Govt

US Gen Miller 'assumes' Afghan NATO command

KABUL, Afghanistan, Sept 2, (Agencies): US Army Gen Austin Scott Miller assumed command of the 41-nation NATO mission in Afghanistan in a handover ceremony on Sunday.

Miller took over from Gen John Nicholson, who held the post for more than two years, at a ceremony at NATO headquarters in Kabul attended by senior Afghan officials and foreign ambassadors.

The handover comes as Afghan forces are struggling to contain a resurgent Taliban and an increasingly powerful Islamic State affiliate. The Taliban control several districts across Afghanistan, and both groups have launched a relentless wave of attacks in recent months.

"The world recognizes Afghanistan cannot be a safe haven for terrorism, the world recognizes that we cannot fail."



Nicholson

I know this has been a long fight, and it has been generations for us, for the Afghan people," said Miller, who most recently led the Joint Special Operations Command.

Meanwhile, a public row that saw two top security officials trade recriminations live on television has sharply highlighted the divisions undermining Afghanistan's Western-backed government, even as insurgents have stepped up pressure on the battlefield.

The spat between Interior Minister Wais Barmak and Mohammad Sadiq Muradi, deputy police chief of Kabul, after a rocket attack on the capital, came at the end of a deadly few weeks in which the Taliban killed hundreds of soldiers and police and briefly seized the strategic city of Ghazni.

Commenting on the row, Interior Minister Barmak said: "Differences between officials over security issues do not reflect disarray, but, instead, proves that we are working towards improving strategy."

Also:

Kabul: An Afghan official says a foreign pilot and two Afghan soldiers were killed when a helicopter contracted by NATO crashed inside an army base.

Maj Hanif Rezaie, an army spokesman, says three others, including another foreign pilot, were wounded when the MI-14 helicopter crashed shortly after take-off from the base near the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Rezaie says the crash was caused by a technical problem and the helicopter caught fire after it hit the ground. He says there was no enemy fire.

Seven other security forces on board the helicopter were rescued.

Rezaie was unable to confirm the nationality of the two foreign pilots.



General Scott Miller (center), command of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan and outgoing US Army General John Nicholson (right), gesture during a change of command ceremony at Resolute Support in Kabul on Sept 2. General Scott Miller took command of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan on Sept 2, as worsening violence erodes hopes for peace in the war-torn country. (AFP)

Lat/Am

11 killed in Ecuador bus crash: A bus crash in Ecuador's Andes mountains left 11 people dead, authorities said Saturday, bringing the country's death toll from such accidents to 46 in the past three weeks.

The bus was traveling toward Loja, in southern Ecuador, when it crashed 21 kilometers (13 miles) south of the city of Cuenca.

"There are a total of 37 injured and 11 dead reported in this morning's accident," the health ministry's regional office said on Twitter.

Images posted on Twitter by the Cuenca fire department showed the bus overturned on its side.

On Aug 14, a Colombian bus carrying 40 passengers crashed on the outskirts of Ecuador's capital Quito, killing 23 people, among them Colombians and Venezuelans.

Days earlier, another bus carrying Barcelona football fans crashed in southern Ecuador, killing 12 people and injuring 30. (AFP)

AMLO's party fine withdrawn: Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal on Saturday revoked a \$10 million fine imposed on the political party of President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador for the allegedly fraudulent use of a trust fund raised for earthquake victims.

The National Electoral Institute had ruled in July that Lopez Obrador's Morena

party broke the law by raising 78.8 million pesos (\$4.1 million) for victims of the Sept 19, 2017 earthquake that devastated central Mexico, killing 360 people.

Political parties in Mexico are not allowed to give money to the public.

It remains unclear how much of the money actually went to earthquake victims. Much of it was withdrawn from the account via checks made out mainly to party leaders.

The tribunal said Saturday that it could not be clearly established that the party or its leaders had benefited personally from the funds, and it revoked the original fine.

The magistrates ruled that the National Electoral Institute's findings lacked "internal consistency."

The earthquake fund was announced by Lopez Obrador himself in 2017, during his campaign, as a way to help victims. (AFP)

Leftist party insists on Lula: Brazil's main leftist party said Saturday it's sticking with former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as its presidential candidate even though the electoral court has thrown



Obrador



Lula

him off the ballot for an election just five weeks away.

Da Silva's vice-presidential running mate, former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad told reporters the Workers Party will continue pushing to somehow get da Silva, 72, who easily leads in the polls, back on the ballot.

"The people are sovereign regarding the party's candidate. And that candidate is Lula," Haddad said.

That strategy would keep da Silva in the spotlight until the absolute last minute, perhaps rallying support from backers that could then be transferred to a stand-in, likely Haddad, who is much less popular or charismatic.

The electoral court voted 6-1 early Saturday to reject da Silva's candidacy because of a corruption conviction that has been upheld on appeal. Da Silva and the party are appealing both the conviction and the electoral court ruling.

The ruling had been widely expected and there were no immediate street protests of the sort that occurred when the former president was initially arrested.

Da Silva, who was wildly popular when he left office on Jan 1, 2011, is now a sharply polarizing figure. Many Brazilians still revere him for pulling millions from poverty during his eight years in power.

But he and the Workers' Party have lost much of that appeal over the last several years due to a stumbling economy under his hand-picked successor Dilma Rousseff and a sprawling corruption probe that has ensnared many top businessmen and politicians, including da Silva.

That division was clear in the reaction to the electoral court ruling. (AP)

Africa

Boko Haram kill 30 soldiers: Islamist militants have killed up to 30 soldiers in an attack on a military base in northeast Nigeria, security sources said on Saturday, in one of the biggest attacks of its kind this year.

Thursday's attack by suspected members of Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) was on a base in Zari village in the north of Borno State.

In 2016 ISWA split from Boko Haram, the jihadist group which has killed more than 30,000 people in the region since 2009, when it launched an insurgency to create an Islamic caliphate.

The Zari attack highlights the challenge to secure the northeast, months ahead of a February election in which security looks set to be a campaign issue.

President Muhammadu Buhari, a former general, won the 2015 election after vowing to crush Islamist militants. He plans to seek a second term in February.

In July the fourth commander in 14 months was named to lead the fight against the militants after a number of embarrassing defeats, despite the government having said since late 2015 that the Islamists in the region had been defeated.

And 20 Nigerian soldiers went missing in mid-July following a clash with militants in the Bama area of Borno. Military sources say the troops are feared dead. (RTRS)



Buhari

Al Shabab kill 6 in Mogadishu: At least six people were killed when a suicide car bomb struck a local government office in central Mogadishu on Sunday, destroying the building and a Quranic school opposite.

Islamist militant group Al Shabab said it was behind the attack on Hawlwadag district office, which also blew off the roof of a mosque and damaged houses nearby.

At least six people had been killed, including soldiers, civilians and the suicide bomber, and a dozen injured, according to police officer Mohamed Hussein. (RTRS)

Chad bombard rebel positions: Chad forces bombarded rebel positions around Tibesti, a town in the far north on the Libyan border, security and local sources told AFP Saturday.

A security source said the bombardment, which followed weeks of monitoring of rebel movements, targeted a site between the localities of Miski and Yebibou.

A local source said a dozen local people had been injured in the operation, which it said "targeted a wedding convoy" - an allegation which could not be independently confirmed. (AFP)

SUPER BRANDS

Bringing your favourite brands closer to you!



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 1838281 Fax: 24911307 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

GRAND SALE

 <p>84 الان دك 990 139 قبيل دك 990</p> <p>SMART TV</p> <p>4K ULTRAHD</p> <p>49"</p> <p>HDMI USB</p>	 <p>199 الان دك 990 259 قبيل دك 990</p> <p>SMART TV</p> <p>4K ULTRAHD</p> <p>65"</p> <p>HDMI USB</p>	 <p>139 الان دك 990 199 قبيل دك 990</p> <p>SMART TV</p> <p>4K ULTRAHD</p> <p>55"</p> <p>Wall Bracket</p> <p>HDMI USB</p>
--	---	---

BestAlYousifi @BestAlYousifi alyousifiBEST BestAlYousifi

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

2018 / 10 / 02 ال 2018 / 09 / 03 فورة الترويج من 1 / 2018 / 4233 / ن

G

grandcinemas
always entertaining

GUIDE











AUG.30 - SEP.5

PHONE BOOKING AND INQUIRIES
GATE MALL 220 56 464
HAMRA LUXURY CENTER 222 70 333

GrandCinemasme.com

GCKuwait @GC_Kuwait

NOW SHOWING

MOVIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MX4D

BE PART OF THE ACTION

STEP INTO A VIRTUAL REALITY WITH 90 VR

ON TUESDAYS

% OFF

AT GRAND CINEMAS - KUWAIT
ON ALL EXPERIENCES
GrandCinemas MX4D TITANIUM