



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact

John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday, September 29 2021|

Afghan army collapse ‘took us all by surprise,’ U.S. defense secretary says

WASHINGTON, Sept 28 (Reuters) - U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told Congress on Tuesday that the Afghan army's sudden collapse caught the Pentagon "by surprise," as military leaders confronted a contentious Senate hearing about how and why America lost its longest war.

Republican lawmakers accused President Joe Biden of lying about recommendations from his military that some troops should be kept in Afghanistan. Even Biden's Democrats expressed frustration with a chaotic withdrawal that left U.S. troops dead and American citizens behind.

Biden's approval ratings have been badly damaged by last month's spectacular collapse of the two-decade war effort, with painful images of Afghans clinging desperately to a U.S. military plane as they tried to escape Taliban rule.

Thirteen U.S. troops also died in an Aug. 26 suicide bombing trying to safeguard the evacuation effort that, ultimately, relied on support from the militant Islamist Taliban, a long-time U.S. foe.

General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Frank McKenzie of U.S. Central Command also acknowledged being caught off-guard by the speed of the Taliban takeover and collapse of the U.S.-backed government in Kabul.

It was their first public congressional testimony since the Taliban won the war in August.

"The fact that the Afghan army we and our partners trained simply melted away - in many cases without firing a shot - took us all by surprise," Austin, a former four-star general who served in Afghanistan, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"It would be dishonest to claim otherwise."

McKenzie and Milley testified that they had believed it would have been best to keep a minimum of 2,500 troops in the country. In an August interview, Biden denied his commanders had recommended that, saying: "No. No one said that to me that I can recall."

Republican Senator Joni Ernst said Biden's decision to keep former President



Donald Trump's unconditional withdrawal agreement with the Taliban had squandered U.S. sacrifices for what he thought would be "a cheap political victory."

"The loss of our service members, and abandonment of Americans and Afghan allies last month was an unforced, disgraceful humiliation that didn't have to happen," Ernst said.

Senator James Inhofe, the panel's top Republican, described it as a "horror of the president's own making."

White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said Biden's military experts had provided "a range of viewpoints" about Afghanistan, and that Biden believed leaving troops there would "mean war with the Taliban."

Milley, the top U.S. military officer, noted military warnings since late 2020 that an accelerated, unconditional withdrawal could precipitate the collapse of the Afghan military and government.

"That was a year ago. My assessment remained consistent throughout," Milley said.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin testify during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future coun

"WHY DON'T YOU RESIGN?" Republican Senator Tom Cotton asked Milley why, if everything he said was true, he didn't resign his position.

Milley pushed back strongly, saying a U.S. president does not have to agree with the advice of his generals. "This country doesn't want generals figuring out what orders we are going to accept and do or not. That's not our job," Milley said.

Austin, Milley and senators - many of whom oversaw the war effort for years - seemed full of questions about what went wrong, citing failures to appreciate the impact of corruption and damaged morale in the ranks.

"There's a series of strategic lessons to be learned," Milley said. Democrats faulted Republicans for blaming Biden, who has been president since January, for everything that went wrong during the 20 years U.S. troops have been in Afghanistan, including under Trump.

"Anyone who says the last few months were a failure, but everything before that was great, clearly hasn't been paying attention," Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren said.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin testify during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future counterterrorism operations, on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., September 28, 2021. Sarahbeth Maney/Pool via REUTERS

Much of the hearing was devoted to Republicans' questions about Milley's interviews with Bob Woodward and other reporters for books on the chaotic last months the former president was in the White House.

Austin praised U.S. personnel who helped airlift 124,000 people out of the country.

But Milley acknowledged that while the evacuation effort was a logistical accomplishment, the withdrawal was a "strategic defeat" that left the Taliban back in power.

He warned the Taliban "remains a terrorist organization" which has not broken ties with al Qaeda.

A reconstituted al Qaeda in Afghanistan with aspirations to attack the United States was "a very real possibility" - perhaps in as little as a year, he said.

敬請關注我們的新媒體賬號
Follow us on social media



Southern News
美南新聞



公共頁
美南網



今日頭條
美國美南網



抖音
美國美南網



西瓜視頻
美國美南網



Facebook Page:
Southern News
美南新聞



Tik Tok ID:
Southern News
Group



Instagram ID:
Southern News

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 09/28/2021



Wea H. Lee
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Is The Federal Government Going To Close Down?

President Biden is entering the seismic week of a legislative agenda fight for his budget.

The vote on his \$1.2 trillion senate-passed infrastructure has been delayed until Thursday and Republicans are determined on blocking the raise the debt ceiling proposal.

If the government funding bill

is ended this week without resolution, the federal government will shut down. Democrats will have three days to fund the government and there is no backup plan B at the moment. The short term option could run through early December or a matter of weeks.

The \$3.5 trillion spending bill represents the most ambitious effort for the Biden



administration to deploy the power of government to remake the economy in decades.

Amid the resurgence of the pandemic and a messy withdrawal from Afghanistan means that success on Capitol Hill is now more important for Biden's political future.

Recent polls show that the majority of Americans favor

the infrastructure spending on roads, bridges and transportation. Education, care of the elderly, healthcare and fight for climate change issues also enjoy wide support.

Today we are facing so many challenges. We want both parties to work together to solve the many problems facing our country.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A fibreglass sculpture entitled 'Bihar' (Tomorrow in Basque), by Mexican hyperrealist artist Ruben Orozco, is submerged in the Nervion river in Bilbao, Spain. REUTERS/Vincent West



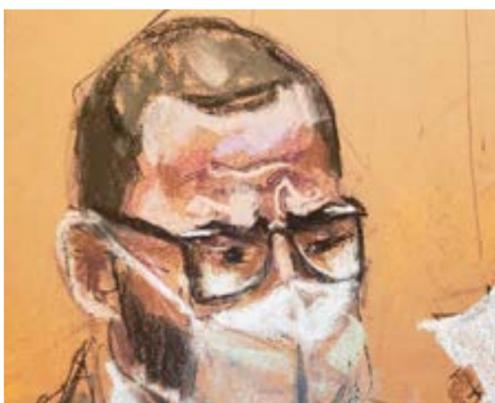
U.S. President Joe Biden holds up his sleeve to receive his coronavirus disease (COVID-19) booster vaccination in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building's South Court Auditorium at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Ella Rose Corley, 8, who contracted an infection in early childhood that left her legally blind, plays in her bedroom in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. REUTERS/Hannah Beier



People view thousands of white flags, September 26, 2021. "When numbers get so large, it becomes difficult to really understand them, so I as a visual artist wanted to make the number physical," she said. "Taken holistically, this is a physical manifestation of empathy," said Firstenberg during the opening ceremony of the art installation. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



R. Kelly sits as the jury foreman reads the guilty verdict in Kelly's sex abuse trial at Brooklyn's Federal District Court in a courtroom sketch in New York. REUTERS/Jane Rosenberg



A soldier salutes as he rides with a dog in a pickup during a parade marking the Independence Day of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat. REUTERS/Vyacheslav Sarkisyan

BUSINESS

Sports Play An Important Role In International Relations

American Football Growing In Popularity With China's Youth



Coaches Ben Wang (with flag) and Dionte Allen (with football) lead the AFA Team Prepares for a game in Shanghai, China.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor And Sports News Service Media

SHANGHAI, CHINA- China sports fans were drawn to the western sports world by the tens of millions when basketball star Yao Ming joining the Houston Rockets in 2002. The NBA has since grown its fans base to over 500 million in China, and now the NFL is hoping the Chinese sports fans will embrace American football with the same enthusiasm. Dionte Allen, A former NCAA football stand out at Ohio State University, was one of 20 coaches working in Shanghai as football trainers prior to Covid on 2 year contracts. The AFA, or American Football Association, is set up to train youth interested in football. There are about 30,000 kids participating in football across China in 100 facilities built just for football training.

"We are building football culture here," said Allen. "People will grow to love football the more they learn about it. It's catching on in a major way." China's largest media companies are also seeing the opportunity. Tencent, a global media giant, has a broadcasting contract with the NFL, and averages over 4.4 million viewers per game broadcast. Other platforms like Youku, Weibo, and Sina sports are logging millions of video views of NFL game clips and highlights from their respective users. Amateur football players from the USA have become popular influencers for football in China as well. Jackson White, a high school senior at Houston Lamar High School, has already become involved on the China

football scene by doing product promotions.



请关注我@JWHITE5_

USA Wide Receiver Jackson White Promotes Glow Footballs on Social Media during Chinese New Year.

White, who was ranked #7 wide receiver for Texas private schools for the class of 2022, has provided promotional training content and product placement for some of the youth academies in China through his father's company, TGBTG Sports. "I had a great time in China the times I've been with my dad, and it will be nice to experience football there someday," said White, who gained popularity on China social media with the GLOW Football campaign. "Maybe I can go back and play some games with my college team when it's time" Jackson's father, Cyril White, first went to China in 1999 to play basketball with the Chinese Basketball Association. Since 2000, he has continued to work with the CBA and sports Federation around China, bringing ex-NBA to China for over 300 exhibition basketball games and professional contracts in the CBA. Having worked with Stephon Marbury, Allen Iverson, and a host of other famous NBA personalities in China, he knows that sports has been a great relationship builder between China- USA.



Jackson White (6) sees the NFL's

vision for China, and looks forward to playing a football game in China someday.

"You can date it back to the first friendly ping pong games of 1972 between USA and China," White said "Sports is always going to be a vehicle to unify people, build positive relationships, and establish common ground. Having American Football and the NFLs presence in China will allow that type of goodwill to continue."

In 2019, the Penn Quakers from the NCAA went to Shanghai for two friendly games against the top AFA students. These were the first of such games intended to build the East-West bridge of sports to grow football in China.

So, while the NBA is still the number one foreign league among China sports fans, the NFL is gaining ground. With 35 million people across the country showing interest in football, it could be a future destination for lucrative professional leagues as well, a prospect that young Jackson White feels good about.



Coach Dionte Allen teaches football to youth at Shanghai's American Football Academy. China projects to have over 150,000 Youth football participants by the year 2023.

"I'd love to see the NFL doing well in China," said Jackson, whose website www.firstdownjacksonwhite.com launched in China in early September. "That would create more opportunities for more football players around the world."



Former NBA Star and China Sports Legend Stephon Marbury (left) shakes hands with advisor/consultant Cyril White (right) during a press conference in Beijing, China. Marbury purchased the Beijing Lions of the CAFL in 2017.

China had the China American football league, or CAFL, start up in 2016 and come to a halt around the time of Covid. Former NBA player and China superstar Stephon Marbury bought the Beijing Lions CAFL team in 2017. After that team has won the league's inaugural "China Bowl". The league was made of six teams with 22 players on each team. White believes that this investment in youth development around China is what will allow the CAFL to sustain. "The CAFL needed more Chinese players on the team, and more Chinese fans that understood what they were watching," said White, who has worked as an advisor to Marbury since 2010 on various projects. "By 2030-2035, with consistent investment in the youth, football can be just as popular as basketball with the younger generation in China."

In 2021-2022, China television networks will air three NFL games per week, all the playoffs and the Super Bowl, with an expected 6 million fans to watch the Super Bowl. With NFL players like Russell Wilson visiting China and Chinese musical artist Kris Wu performing at the Super Bowl, the sport is poised to continue gaining market share in their target audiences.

"This is great for the game," said Dionte Allen. "The kids can learn so much from watching the pros do it at the highest level. We use the NFL games as a tool to teach from video, and the kids love it." (Courtesy Sports News Service Media)

(Article continues below)

COMMUNITY

(Article continues from above)

American Football Growing In Popularity With China's Youth

American And Chinese Sports History Ping-Pong Diplomacy Thawed The Cold War

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In the years since Mao Zedong's communist revolution in 1949, relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States had been clouded by Cold War propaganda, trade embargos and diplomatic silence. The two superpowers had met on the battlefield during the Korean War, but no official American delegation had set foot in the People's Republic in over 20 years. By 1971, however, both nations were looking to open a dialogue with one another. China's alliance with the Soviet Union had soured and produced a series of bloody border clashes, and Chairman Mao believed ties with the Americans might serve as a deterrent against the Russians. U.S. President Richard Nixon, meanwhile, had made opening China a top priority of his administration. In 1967, he had written, "We simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations."

communications, but the real breakthrough came courtesy of a public encounter between a pair of ping-pong players. During the 1971 World Table Tennis Championships in Nagoya, Japan, 19-year-old U.S. player Glenn Cowan hopped on a shuttle bus carrying the red-shirted Chinese national team. Most of the Chinese eyed the shaggy-haired American with suspicion, but Zhuang Zedong, the team's greatest player, stepped forward to shake Cowan's hand and speak to him through an interpreter. He even presented the teenager with a gift: a silk-screen picture of China's Huangshan mountains. Cowan, a self-described hippie, returned the gesture the following day by giving Zhuang a t-shirt emblazoned with a peace symbol and the Beatles' lyric "Let It Be." Photographers caught the incident on film, and the unexpected good will between the U.S. and

Zhuang and the rest of the Chinese players had arrived at the 1971 championships with strict orders to avoid contact with the Americans, but upon learning of the gift exchange, Chairman Mao took it as a political opportunity. "Zhang Zedong is not just a good table tennis player," he observed, "he's a good diplomat as well." A few days later, as the U.S. team was preparing to leave Nagoya, Mao shocked the world by inviting them to make an all-expense paid visit to China. After checking with their embassy, the American players accepted. "I was as surprised as I was pleased," President Nixon later wrote in his memoirs. "I had never expected that the China initiative would come to fruition in the form of a ping-pong team."

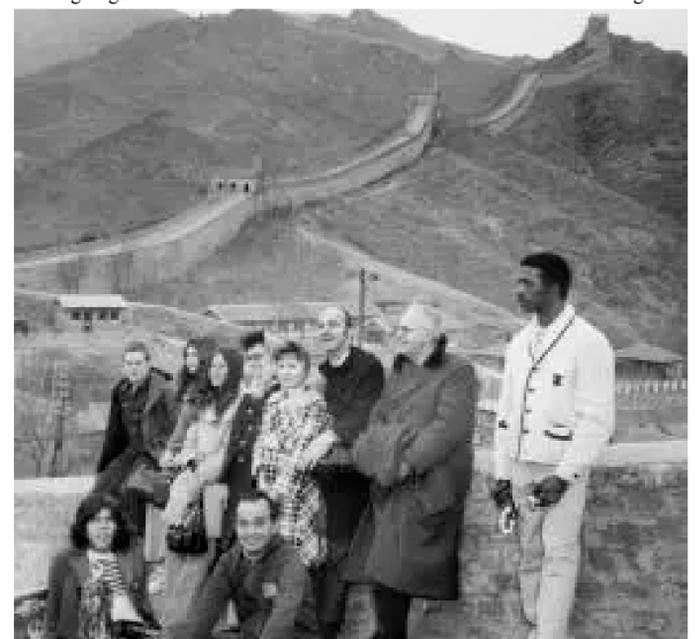


An American tennis table player trains with a Chinese tennis table player, in April, 1971 in Beijing, China. (Credit: AFP/Getty Images)

The historic visit began on April 10, 1971, when 15 American table tennis players, team officials and spouses crossed a bridge from Hong Kong into China. The U.S. team was diverse, including everyone from the hippie Glenn Cowan to a college professor to a Guyanese immigrant to a pair of high school-age girls. None of the players were particularly accomplished at ping-pong—the U.S. men's team was ranked 24th in the world at the time—and most had been forced to beg or borrow the money to make it to the championships in Japan. Now, only a few days later, they had inadvertently become the most important American diplomats on the planet. A cadre of Western journalists was set to follow their every move, and a few members of the team were enlisted to serve as correspondents for newspapers and magazines. After crossing behind the "Bamboo Curtain," the U.S. team spent 10-days traveling through Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai and taking in the sights and sounds of the People's Republic. During one stopover, team president Graham Steenhoven noticed that a "Welcome American Team" banner had been hung over a wall painted with the words "Down

With the Yankee Oppressors and Their Running Dogs!"

As part of the eight-day trip—Nixon would call it "the week that changed the



American delegation of tennis table players visit the Great Wall of China, in April, 1971. (Credit: AFP/Getty Images) Along with visits to the Great Wall, the Summer Palace and a revolution-themed opera, the U.S. players also participated in a series of exhibition ping-pong matches held under the slogan "Friendship First and Competition Second." It was clear that the world-class Chinese players had taken the theme to heart. They won the majority of the contests in a walk, but let the Americans take the occasional game in the spirit of sportsmanship. "I knew I was not only there to play," Chinese competitor Zheng Minzhi told the New York Times, "but more important, to achieve what cannot be achieved through proper diplomatic channels."



President Nixon meets with China's Communist Party Leader, Mao Tse-Tung. (Credit: Public Domain)

world"—the President met with Zhou Enlai and Chairman Mao and took the first steps toward normalizing U.S.-Chinese relations. Writing about the visit years later, Nixon noted that the Chinese leaders "took particular delight in reminding me that an exchange of ping-pong teams had initiated a breakthrough in our relations. They seemed to enjoy the method used to achieve the result almost as much as the result itself."

The American table tennis team would leave China on April 17, arriving back in Hong Kong to a sea of reporters and news photographers. By then, the "ping heard round the world," as Time Magazine had called it, was already bearing diplomatic fruit. On April 14, the same day that the American players met with Zhou Enlai, President Nixon had announced that the United States was easing its travel bans and trade embargos against China. The American and Chinese governments soon opened new back-channel communications with one another. In July, U.S. National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger made a secret trip to Beijing. Perhaps the most fitting table tennis metaphor came courtesy of Mao himself: "The little ball," he said, "moves the big ball." (Courtesy history.com)



Qian Weichang met with the visiting U.S. table tennis player Glenn Cowan in 1971. (Credit: ChinaFotoPress/Getty Images) The two countries eventually opened secret

Chinese teams soon became the talk of the tournament. "Table tennis became an unlikely tool in international relations."