



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

Sunday, August 15 2021

Taliban draw closer to Kabul, Washington and allies rush to evacuate diplomats

KABUL, Aug 14 (Reuters) - Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani held urgent talks with local leaders and international partners on Saturday as Taliban rebels pushed closer to Kabul, capturing a town south of the capital that is one of the gateways to the city.

The United States and Britain rushed in troops to help evacuate their embassies after the militants captured town after town as U.S. and other foreign forces that have backed the government withdrew.

Many Afghans have fled from the provinces to the capital, driven out by fighting and fearful of a return to hardline Islamist rule, as resistance from Afghan government forces crumbles.

"As your president, my focus is on preventing further instability, violence, and displacement of my people," Ghani said in a brief televised address, adding that he was consulting government, elders, politicians and international leaders.

He gave no sign of responding to a Taliban demand that he resign as a condition for any talks on a ceasefire and a political settlement, saying his priority remained the consolidation of the country's security and defence forces.

"Serious measures are being taken in this regard," he said, without elaborating.

Qatar, which has been hosting so-far inconclusive peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, said it had urged the insurgents to cease fire during a meeting with their representatives on Saturday.

Earlier the Taliban, facing little resistance, took Pul-e-Alam, capital of Logar province and 70 km (40 miles) south of Kabul, according to a local provincial council member, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Police officials however denied reports that the Taliban had advanced closer to Kabul from Pul-e-Alam, which is a staging post for a potential assault on the capital.

The town's capture came a day after the insurgents took the country's second- and third-biggest cities. The Taliban says it is close to capturing Maidan Shahr, another



town close to Kabul.

An Afghan government official confirmed on Friday that Kandahar, the biggest city in the south and the heartland of the Taliban, was under the militants' control as U.S.-led forces complete their withdrawal after 20 years of war.

The U.S.-led invasion, which ousted the Taliban from power, was launched after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States in 2001.

Herat in the west, near the border with Iran, also fell to the group. The Taliban said on Saturday it had overrun the capitals of Kunar, Paktika and Paktia provinces on Afghanistan's eastern border, although this could not be immediately confirmed.

Taliban fighters keep watch in Ghazni province, Afghanistan August 14, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer NO RESALES. NO ARCHIVES

Taliban forces patrol a street in Herat, Afghanistan August 14, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer

Taliban forces patrol a street in Herat, Afghanistan August 14, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer NO RESALES. NO ARCHIVES

Taliban forces patrol a street in Herat, Afghanistan August 14, 2021. REUTERS/Stringer

EMBASSY EVACUATIONS

American troops have begun flying in to Kabul to help in the evacuation of embassy personnel and other civilians, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon has said two battalions of Marines and an infantry battalion will arrive in Kabul by Sunday evening, involving about 3,000 troops. An infantry brigade combat team will move to Kuwait to act as a quick reaction force for security in Kabul if needed.

The Czech Republic said it was evacuating its two diplomats on Saturday and Germany said it would deploy troops to get its diplomats out as soon as possible. read more

Some embassies have begun to burn sensitive material ahead of evacuating, diplomats said. Residents said many people in the capital were stocking up on rice, other food and first aid.

Visa applications at embassies were running in the tens of thousands, officials said, and Wash-

ington was asking countries to temporarily house Afghans who worked for the U.S. government. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Friday before the fall of Pul-e-Alam that there was concern that the Taliban could make a move on Kabul within days.

THOUSANDS WOUNDED

Hospitals were struggling to cope with the numbers of people wounded in the fighting, with 17,000 treated in July and the first week of August in facilities supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the aid agency said.

The explosion in fighting has raised fears of a refugee crisis and a rollback of gains in human rights, especially for women. Canada said it would resettle more than 20,000 vulnerable Afghans including women leaders, human rights workers and reporters to protect them from Taliban reprisals. read more

As well as Kabul, the government still holds the cities of Jalalabad, near the Pakistani border in the east, and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north, where there were reports on social media of heavy fighting on Saturday.



美南報業電視傳媒集團
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS

報業 黃頁 電視
印刷設計 國際貿易中心



美南新聞

11122 BELLAIRE BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77072

WWW.SCDAILY.COM 281-498-4310

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

08/14/2021



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



From The Nation's Capital



My sister's house is located in Potomac near the DC area. In this small town there are many mansions with an average of two acres of land on each property. Many houses are surrounded by large trees and gardens. There are many old money families in the town such as the Rockefeller and Kennedy families. Many politicians and billionaires also live there.

In the nation's capital there are four kinds of people: one are the politicians; of course, this is the political center of the world;

another kind of people are lawyers. There are so many big law firms in the DC area. There are also the power brokers and deal makers. We also have many diplomats stationed in DC. They are representing their countries in America. Most of them are considered the best ambassadors representing their nations. When we walk on the street we also see many think tank institutes in the building. They have become one of the best places to hire the retired high-ranking government officials.

I had a chance to visit the Hudson Institute yesterday which was founded in 1961 by the strategist, Herman Kahn. The Hudson Institute challenges conventional thinking and helps manage strategic transitions to the future through interdisciplinary studies in defense, international relations, economics, healthcare, technology, culture and law. They sponsor a

vigorous program of publications, conferences and policy briefings and recommendations.

Many colorful and political events are going every day in this exciting city. People love parties. They make their deals at the cocktail parties and feel they can talk freely and more relaxed to express their views. Many of the deals

could be made in the hotels and restaurants and not in an office.

We are so fortunate to become a part of the action in this city. As a media person we witness a lot of politicians going up and down and coming and going. Many of them become world leaders and they will need to guide our nation and also the world.



Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Joan Bronson of Chalmette, Louisiana, is treated for COVID-19 at the Ochsner Medical Center in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, August 10, 2021. The state of Louisiana - which has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. - is among those leading the nation with new cases and how many COVID patients fill their hospitals. REUTERS/Kathleen Flynn



Locals evacuate the area with their animals as a wildfire rages in the suburb of Thrakomakedones, north of Athens, Greece, August 7, 2021. Greece, in the grip of its worst heatwave in three decades, has seen more than 500 wildfires across the country. Hundreds of houses and businesses have been destroyed and around 65,000 hectares of forest burned. REUTERS/Giorgos Moutafis



A parent and member of the 'Community Patriots' confronts a police officer while protesting against wearing masks in schools, before a specially called school board workshop at the Pinellas County Schools Administration Building in Largo, Florida, August 9, 2021. As the start of the academic year coincides with a dire new wave of COVID-19 cases, schools have quickly become the focal point of the nation's political fight over masking and vaccine mandates.



A view of the Panamanian-registered ship 'Crimson Polaris' after it ran aground in Hachinohe harbour in Hachinohe, northern Japan. Japan Coast Guard/ via REUTERS



A government worker assists people queuing to get Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in a school turned into a vaccination site that operates 24/7, in Manila, Philippines, August 9, 2021. Nearly a fifth of hospitals in the Philippines are close to full capacity amid a surge in COVID-19 infections, driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez



A Syrian shop owner carries the broken door of his shop after a crowd of Turks attacked shops and homes belonging to Syrians overnight, in the wake of a street fight that led to a Turkish youth being fatally stabbed, in Ankara, Turkey. REUTERS/Cagla Gurdogan

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

The New Face Of The Final Frontier The Business Of Space



(Editor's Note: When Virgin CEO Richard Branson and his crew on the Virgin Galactic space airplane reached space last week 50 miles above earth, the achievement, while technologically monumental, was significant in heralding the inescapable commercialization of space and all that means and will become. Branson was upfront about his trip being a personal adventure while at the same time one by which he wanted to tell the public that now is the time to join him in space. But the even larger story is that Branson's ride into space marked the moment at which the dream became reality for an independent business owner, not by the hand of any government, to fly off into space and in just over two hours' time land safely back on earth. Branson's trip opened the door and now commercialization of space has begun./John T. Robbins)

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

Richard Branson's achievement notwithstanding, today there is reason to think that we may finally be reaching the first stages of a true space-for-space economy. SpaceX's recent achievements (in cooperation with NASA), as well as upcoming efforts by Boeing, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic to put people in space sustainably and at scale, mark the opening of a new chapter of spaceflight led by private firms. These firms have both the intention and capability to bring private citizens to space as passengers, tourists, and — eventually — settlers, opening the door for businesses to start meeting the demand those people create over the next several decades with an array of space-for-space goods and services.

Welcome to the (Commercial) Space Age
In contrast to governments, the private sector is eager to put people in space to pursue their own personal interests, not the state's — and then supply the demand they create. This is the vision driving SpaceX, which in its first twenty years has entirely upended the

rocket launch industry, securing 60% of the global commercial launch market and building ever-larger spacecraft designed to ferry passengers not just to the International Space Station (ISS), but also to its own promised settlement on Mars. Today, the space-for-space market is limited to supplying the people who are already in space: that is, the handful of astronauts employed by NASA and other government programs. While SpaceX has grand visions of supporting large numbers of private space travelers, their current space-for-space activities have all been in response to demand from government customers (i.e., NASA).



But as decreasing launch costs enable companies like SpaceX to leverage economies of scale and put more people into space, growing private sector demand (that is, tourists and settlers, rather than government employees) could turn these proof-of-concept initiatives into a sustainable, large-scale industry.

This model — of selling to NASA with the hopes of eventually creating and expanding into a larger private market — is exemplified by SpaceX, but the company is by no means the only player taking this approach. For instance, while SpaceX is focused on space-for-space transportation, another key component of this burgeoning industry will be manufacturing.

Made In Space, Inc. has been at the forefront of manufacturing “in space, for space” since 2014, when it 3D-printed a wrench onboard the ISS. Today, the company is exploring other products, such as high-quality fiber-optic cable, that terrestrial customers may be willing to pay to have manufactured in zero-gravity. But the company also recently received a \$74 million contract to 3D-print large metal beams in space for use on NASA spacecraft, and future private sector spacecraft will certainly have similar manufacturing needs which Made In Space hopes to be well-positioned to fulfill. Just as SpaceX has begun by supplying NASA but hopes to eventually serve a much larger, private-sector market, Made In Space's current work with NASA could be the first step along a path towards supporting a variety of private-sector manufacturing applications for which the costs of manufacturing on earth and transporting into space would be prohibitive.

Another major area of space-for-space investment is in building and operating space infrastructure such as habitats, laboratories, and factories. Axiom Space, a current leader in this field, recently announced that it would be flying the “first fully private commercial mission to space” in 2022 onboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon Capsule. Axiom was also awarded a contract for exclusive access to a module of the ISS, facilitating its plans to develop modules for commercial activity on the station (and eventually, beyond it).

This infrastructure is likely to spur investment in a wide array of complementary services to supply the demand of the people living and working within it. For example, in February 2020, Maxar Technologies was awarded a \$142 million contract from NASA to develop a robotic construction tool that would be assembled in space for use on low-Earth



orbit spacecraft. Private sector spacecraft or settlements will no doubt have need for a variety of similar construction and repair tools. And of course, the private sector isn't just about industrial products. Creature comforts also promise to be an area of rapid growth, as companies endeavor to support the human side of life in the harsh environment of space. In 2015, for example, Argotec and Lavazza collaborated to build an espresso machine that could function in the zero-gravity environment of the ISS, delivering a bit of everyday luxury to the crew.

Visions of a space-for-space economy have been around since the dawn of the Space Age in the 1960s. Thus far, those hopes have gone largely unmet — but this moment is different. For the first time in history, the private sector's capital, risk tolerance, and profit motive are being channeled into putting people in space. If we seize this opportunity, we will look back on 2020 as the year when we started the truly transformational project of building an economy and a society in space, for space.

Related
It Could Happen By 2023
Space Miners Want To Blow Up The Moon's Surface To Harvest Water



A rover descending from a Masten lunar lander.

We already use rockets to reach the moon, but soon we may use them to mine it for water. Three companies, including Lunar Outpost, Honeybee Robotics, and Masten Space Systems, are developing a novel system aimed at mining water ice from the moon with rockets, according to a blog post shared on Masten's official website. And it could happen in the year 2023.

A water ice-mining system could cover 12 moon craters per day

The moon's polar regions are thought to contain the most abundant deposits of water ice, especially in the shadowy bottom of larger craters. If future astronauts can harvest this precious material, we might have a shot at building a permanent human settlement on the moon, according to NASA authorities and space travel enthusiasts. More than keep astronauts alive, mining water ice from the lunar surface will enable us to break it down into hydrogen and oxygen, which are the primary ingredients for rocket fuel. In other

words, water ice on the moon could also fuel spacecraft on their way into deep space like a cosmic pit stop.

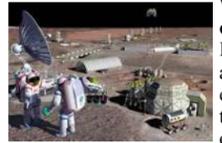


To drive mining technology forward, NASA issued the “Break the Ice Lunar Challenge,” which aims to provide

\$500,000 to the most enticing resource-harvesting concepts amid the first phase, which will end soon, the winners of which will be announced August 13. One of the first prize-hopefuls is the Masten-Lunar Outpost-Honeybee Robotics group, pushing forward its Rocket Mining System to use a rocket engine equipped on a 1,800-lb (818-kg) rover. Once the rover moves to an area rich in water ice, the engine will activate, firing lunar gravel and dirt into a low-pressure device capable of sifting the ice from the moon rocks. “This system is projected to mine up to 12 craters per day and produce 100 kg (220 lbs) of ice per crater,” said representatives of Masten in the blog post.

Multiple nations aim to settle the moon
All water ice retrieved from the moon can also fuel rocket engines, enabling the system to function for more than five years. If this concept surpasses all competitors, the rocket mining system will probably get there via a Masten lunar lander. Masten's first mission to the moon's surface will employ its XL-1 lander, and is slated to launch in 2023 atop SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. If all goes well, this launch will also lift NASA experiments, in addition to several commercial payloads, to the south polar region of the moon.

Lunar Outpost would design and build the rover for the Rocket Mining System, with Honeybee Robotics employing its PlanetVac technology to extract and move the lunar ice.



Water mining on the moon.

In short, these are very interesting times for the exploration of space. In

addition to NASA and related commercial projects, China and Russia plan to jointly build a permanent settlement on the moon, with the former also recently unveiling long-term plans to do the same on Mars. But we wouldn't call this a space race, not necessarily. There's more to be learned from a spirit of friendly collaboration and mutual support than ever before, in the coming decades. (Courtesy <https://interestingengineering.com/>)

(Article continues below)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

(Article continues from above)

The New Face Of The Final Frontier The Business Of Space

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

The Five Industries That Will Be First To Do Business In Space



Companies around the world - in transportation, exploration, energy, construction or hospitality - are all looking upwards for the next growth opportunity. Space is quickly becoming a place where the industries that power our global economy will conduct business. What do we call an economic area like this, that is not limited to a single planet, and no longer has physical boundaries? We can't call it an industry, when private industrial groups can generate revenue and profit not only from the Earth but from near-Earth asteroids (NEAs), the Moon and Mars and beyond. It is simply a medium in which humanity conducts commerce.

Following are the industry sectors that will be the first to take advantage of our expanded economic sphere, and some of the specific opportunities for growth.

Energy

Valued at over \$8.4 trillion and growing at a 4.1% compound annual growth rate, energy is the largest industry on Earth. Humans are prolific energy consumers, and soon there will be more humans in space.

Jeff Bezos, Founder and CEO of Amazon, anticipates “millions of people living and working in space” in the coming decades. Bezos is so confident of this outcome that he is investing more than \$1 billion per year into his space transportation firm, Blue Origin. An in-space population of this magnitude will require enormous amounts of energy to live, work, and transit.



This energy will come from solar power, which is more effective when gathered in

space due to the lack of a filtering atmosphere; and chemical rockets, which will be the primary transportation mechanism for the foreseeable future.

The most efficient chemical rocket propellants are composed of cryogenic liquid oxygen combined with liquid hydrogen or methane. Initially, the propellant needed to fuel the space economy will be launched from Earth, as both the United Launch Alliance (a joint-venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing) and SpaceX have proposed to do in the near future. However, there is a much more attractive way to source the propellants needed to support a sustained human presence in space: mining it.

Mining

The global mining industry has tumbled in recent years from a market value of more than \$1.6 trillion in 2010, to \$714 billion in 2016, but this may change quickly once the “global” definition of mining is transformed by the emerging space resource industry.

Space resources can be extracted from celestial bodies, most notably asteroids and the Moon. Goldman Sachs released a report earlier this year that declared asteroid mining is more realistic than perceived, with costs “comparable to traditional mines”. The Goldman report also noted that “while the psychological barrier to mining asteroids is high, the actual financial and technological barriers are far lower.”

The Government of Luxembourg believes so strongly in this emerging industry it recently created the \$227 million Space Resources ini-

tiative to establish Luxembourg as a European hub for space resources.



Its aim is to contribute to the peaceful exploration and sustainable utilization of space resources for the benefit of humankind. Space mining activities will initially focus on water and water-derived propellants to enable in-space infrastructure. Once this propellant is readily available, companies will begin sourcing structural metals for construction projects and eventually precious metals needed for in-space manufacturing or possibly for return to Earth.

Transportation

The most important resource that will be mined in space is water.

Water is critical for all life-support functions in space: sustenance, hygiene, and food production. Water can serve as an effective shield from the dangerous radiation present in space. Water is also the single most important feedstock for in-space refineries, which will produce rocket propellants for sale to transportation providers. Making propellants available beyond Earth's gravitational influence will lead to the creation of the first in-space superhighway — a series of fuel depots placed in strategic locations throughout the solar system. Imagine the growth potential of the energy, mining, and refining industries once they are freed from the constraints of an economy that is limited only to Earth. The in-space transportation and logistics firms who will consume these products are already well established and are headed by titans of industry:



Jeff Bezos (Blue Origin), Elon Musk (SpaceX), Richard Branson (Virgin Galactic), and Tory Bruno (United Launch Alliance). The door is now open to in-space mining firms like Planetary Resources (backed by industrial giant Bechtel and the Government of Luxembourg) to capture this increasingly important market by providing water and water-based propellants to the space transportation industry.

Construction

Today, the global construction industry competes with the energy industry for the title of the world's largest industry, and this rivalry will

continue in space. The first orbital construction systems will be deployed before the end of the decade. These robotic spacecraft will be capable of assembling large structures in orbit and repairing or refueling existing satellites. When combined with zero-gravity additive manufacturing techniques, this enables construction systems which can “print” and assemble massive structures in the medium of space.



The future of construction in space will look nothing like it does on Earth, but it will be equally valuable because the techniques and service offerings will apply across the entire in-space value chain. A propellant refinery can be assembled on orbit. Asteroid mines can be repaired autonomously. Solar power plants can be massively scaled and upgraded to meet the requirements of almost any project.

Hospitality and real estate

Humans can only live, work and play in space if they have shelter from the harsh environment of space. Today, the International Space Station (ISS) has had a sustained human presence for over 10 years, but this too will soon change. Numerous commercial space station companies, including one created by billionaire hotel-chain-founder Robert Bigelow, are competing for lucrative contracts that range from supporting sovereign astronauts and high-net-worth tourists, to leasing space-in-space for orbital manufacturing and research and development programs. This new industry is anticipated to generate \$37 billion in the next decade alone.

Space habitats will be launched from Earth initially, but as the resource supply chain expands and metals from asteroids and the Moon become available, this sector will also come to rely on resources sourced from space.



Construction firms will combine high-quality metallic feedstocks with robotic orbital assembly fleets as we gain the ability to create orbital megastructures: hotels, factories, and permanent settlements that are no longer limited by size. The first cities in space will become possible as markets for real-estate on orbit emerge. Space will become affordable and profitable for developers.

Our global economy is limited by its very name. When we realize that Earth's economy is only the beginning, our concept of growth changes exponentially. For industrial firms who have the foresight to view space not as a stand-alone industry but as the next medium to conduct their business, the sky is not the limit. The only limitations are the ones we put on ourselves. (Courtesy <https://www.weforum.org>)

Space Coverage Gets Serious Attention



While public sentiment on whether billionaires should be leading the way in space may be mixed, public interest around the

race between Branson and Bezos has exploded. **Why it matters:** The billionaire space race is sparking widespread interest in spaceflight that could ultimately translate into future customers for their companies.

By the numbers: Not even halfway through July, mentions of the term “space race” in U.S. articles have ballooned, according to new data from Signal AI provided to Axios — more than tripling the amount of mentions last July.

•When it comes to name recognition, Bezos' Blue Origin has received a lot more attention this year than its rival — Branson's Virgin Galactic.

•Since July 2020, Virgin Galactic has received about a third of the number of total social media interactions (325,663) as Blue Origin (1,085,377), per NewsWhip.

•Elon Musk's SpaceX clobbers both, with nearly 3.5 million total social media interactions for the year.



The big picture:

Space coverage has historically been mostly in a niche — something that typically only broke through to the

mainstream with big launches, accidents or anniversaries.

But today, many news companies have hired designated space reporters, as private spaceflight takes off.

For space-specific news outlets, like Seeker, the space race has been a boon for traffic. A spokesperson tells the media that Seeker has seen twice the amount of views and minutes watched on its video content compared to the six months prior. (Courtesy [axios.com](https://www.axios.com))