

(1) Direct Talks Will...

Mr. Danish's office said in a statement that Mr. Danish made the remarks at a meeting with MPs and his supporters on Tuesday.

He said the next political system in Afghanistan, the Constitution and government-related issues have not been discussed with the Taliban so far.

"US Special Envoy [Zalmay Khalilzad] and the Taliban have only talked about issues relevant to the two sides... The Afghan government is one side of the negotiations in other topics," Mr. Danish said.

He said that peace deal with the Taliban should result in lasting stability in the country.

"People expect a peace that ends in dignity for the people of Afghanistan, enduring stability and security, and maintaining of the freedoms and achievements of the past 18 years," he added. (Tolo news)

(2) Mohaqiq Confirms ...

another campaign as confirmed differences between four key members of the campaign.

"It is a reality that some issues came upon whether we should consider the premiership position in our campaign but an agreement was not achieved in this respect and this damaged all of us and stopped our election campaign. But it was not the only reason; there are some other factors as well," Mr. Mohaqiq explained.

He said that members of the team will meet again and "will make final decision about what we have to do next". "If a decision is made to continue, we will continue. If they suggested boycotting the election, we will boycott. If it is decided that everyone has to go on their own way, then we will select a proper way," he added.

Mr. Mohaqiq said that some presidential candidates are interested in alliance of Atta Mohammad Noor, Mohammad Yunus Qanooni and himself in their teams.

"The reality is that we are one part of the election. If we join any ticket or support it, we will give it strength. There are the calls that we join other teams. We have been consulted by several fronts," he said.

Another key member of Mr. Atmar's team, Wahidullah Sabawoon, who heads a political party, said he is willing to leave the team over what he described as "illegal demands" by the leadership of the team.

Sources previously told TOLONews that Mr. Atmar might join President Ghani in his re-election campaign in the September election.

The sources said that National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib met with Mr. Atmar on Sunday evening aimed at encouraging him to join Mr. Ghani's re-election campaign.

A spokesman for Mr. Ghani's campaign, Jawed Faisal, said they are ready to welcome any election campaign team to join their ticket.

Origin of Rift

Last month, the political office of Atta Mohammad Noor, the former governor of Balkh and chief executive of Jamiat-e-Islami party, who is now part of Atmar's campaign team, the disagreements broke out after Mr. Atmar backtracked from his original position on the post of the premiership.

Noor's aides said that Mr. Atmar had committed in a written document to create the post of prime minister once he wins the presidential election.

The differences deepened after Mr. Atmar said in an interview with TOLONews that the next president should have the authority to dismiss or appoint the upcoming prime minister.

But, Mr. Atmar's spokesman last month said the creation of the post of prime minister was of a national issue and that the campaign is holding talks regarding the issue to reach to some type of understanding on it. (Tolo news)

(3) Presidential Candidates ...

Though the vague peace process with the Taliban and the low interest of presidential candidates to the electoral campaigns have arisen concerns, some of the candidates stress that they will manage both national processes.

"We go on both with the peace process's agenda and the election's agenda. Both are the holy desire of the

Afghan people and none should deny each other," said Faramarz Tamana, a presidential candidate.

As it seems, the U.S. has prioritized the Afghan peace process and is less interested in holding of the election unless the peace process is finalized.

"This can be a political issue where a ticket can use the current situation for its benefit and make other candidates busy with the peace process," said Naiem Ayoubzada, Chief of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

This comes as Afghanistan's presidential election was supposed to take place on September 28th; however, the electoral commentators believe that the election will not take place on the scheduled date. (ATN)

(4) Halt Afghan ...

guesthouse and shot them one by one," he said by telephone from the province.

The NDS said weapons and ammunition were seized in the raid.

"This operation was conducted based on operative information on a Taliban hideout/centre and it left no civilian casualties," the agency said in a statement.

The United Nations says nearly 4,000 civilians were killed or wounded in the first half of the year. The toll included a big increase in the number of casualties inflicted by government and U.S.-led foreign forces.

Ground raids and clashes caused the most civilian casualties, followed by bomb attacks and air strikes, UNAMA said in a report last month.

There has been no let-up in violence, even though the Taliban and the United States have both reported significant progress in talks on a pact for U.S. troops to withdraw in exchange for a Taliban promise that Afghanistan will not be used as a base for militant attacks.

Their latest round of talks ended on Monday without a final agreement. No date has been announced for the next round. (Reuters)

(5) Pentagon ...

Afghan training by developing a plan with specific objectives and milestones to measure those forces' air-to-ground capability. (Agencies)

(6) No Compromise ...

there is no place for suicide attack and explosions in Islam," he said. He said basic reforms had been introduced in all security institutions, adding every member of security sector had dignity and personality and there were not unknown.

Regarding fresh development on peace process, the president said the Afghan government was legal partner of the world and remained the official representative of the people of Afghanistan.

"Clear commitment of international community regarding the support and equipment of security forces existed and is being move ahead on the bases of mutual interest," he said.

Ghani said Afghanistan is moving forward and will not go back to the old ages, "The use of forces is the main duty of security forces until there is a formal peace agreement because this duty was being discharged for the protection of 35 million people."

Defence minister, interior ministry, army chief and top military general were present on the occasion. (Pajhwok)

(7) Election Won't ...

people of the insecure districts could not participate in election. He said only military personnel could cast their votes and common people were unable following fear from Taliban.

Police chief Ihsamuddin Helmandi said they had launched clearing operation ahead of election and promised to recapture all the areas under Taliban control before election. (Pajhwok)

(8) War-Hardened ...

Only touch rugby, which is less physical, is allowed. Otherwise the players risk injury, explained Abdul Habib, the trainer of this team called "Qahramanan" -- meaning "champions" in Dari, the main Afghan language.

Still, the sport is growing. Today, 18 teams have been formed in schools and universities around Kabul and six more in provinces outside the capital, said Aref Wardak, the rugby federation's spokesman.

Three youth and adult champion-

ships are supposed to be created within months, and a women's team has even been started in Kabul with the hope of others coming soon.

Afghanistan is not yet a member of the World Rugby governing body, but has received support from the Asian federation, which helps it train referees and coaches.

The national sevens side, made up of Afghan expatriates, participated in the Asian Games in Indonesia last year, narrowly missing out on the quarter finals.

To build a future for rugby, the federation is focusing on youth, starting in the schools.

"We must first convince teachers there's an interest in rugby, and explain the values of this gentleman's sport that is rooted in rules and a respect for the enemy. And the kids need to find it fun," Wardak said.

Habib, who started coaching the Qahramanan team about four years ago, said it was a difficult sport to learn.

"It took me about two months to teach them the rules," he said.

Wardak, the rugby federation spokesman, recalled his first contacts with college students.

"They would ask me where the goal was and why we had to pass the ball backward -- and they thought a scrum was the start of a fight," he said.

Brooking said the thing players need the most in Kabul is pitches. Not easy to come by in a city experiencing a demographic boom.

A plot of land about 10,000 metres square (2.5 acres) will soon be allocated for rugby practice, according to the Afghan Rugby Federation, though funds are still lacking to construct any facilities or put in a decent turf. (AFP)

(9) Hong Kong ...

billion guards', which is a reference to China's population size.

"On one hand, I needed to express my most basic patriotism as a Hong Kong citizen and a Chinese. I am also one of the flag guards. On the other hand, I hoped to express our collective voice through participating in such a campaign," the actor told CCTV.

Hong Kong is my birthplace and my hometown. China is my country. I love my country. I love my hometown. I truly hope peace can return to Hong Kong as soon as possible.

Large-scale protests erupted in Hong Kong in late March over a proposed law that would have allowed criminal suspects to be handed over to the mainland. Although the law has since been suspended, the protests have only gained momentum, spiraling into fierce clashes with police. A recent spate of unrest has disrupted the operation of Hong Kong international airport, and saw police facing off with demonstrators in attempts to clear the terminals. Beijing has called the protesters "arrogant lunatics" that represent a "tiny minority" of the population, promising "imminent punishment" to those who engage in violence. (RT)

(10) Trump Faces...

pain of losses in agricultural sales to China.

Yet it too faces an economy that posted its weakest industrial output growth since 2002 and a widening political crisis in its vital commercial hub, Hong Kong.

For both Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping a precious commodity is slipping away: time. (Bloomberg)

(11) German Recession...

at 11,575 while the CAC 40 in France fell 1.4% to 5,288. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was 1% lower at 7,181. Wall Street was poised for similar declines at the bell with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.9%.

On Tuesday, stocks had one of their better days recently after the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said it would delay the tariffs on some products, including popular consumer goods, until Dec. 15. A few other products were removed altogether, including certain types of fish and baby seats.

Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA, said the decision takes the "heat out of the situation" and raises the possibility for more talks.

"There's little reason for optimism on this, given how recent meetings have gone, but we have to hope that eventually common sense will prevail,"

he said. "It's just a case of how much pain both sides are willing to take and inflict on others in the meantime."

Figures overnight showed how China is suffering from the trade conflict with the U.S. Chinese factory output, retail spending and investment weakened in July, suggesting the world's second-largest economy faces downward pressure on growth. Factory output rose 4.8% over a year earlier, a marked decline from June's 6.3%. Retail sales growth slowed to 7.6% from the previous month's 9.8%. Investment in real estate and other fixed assets also weakened.

The markets have been in a spin cycle since President Donald Trump announced on Aug. 1 that he would impose 10% tariffs on about \$300 billion in Chinese imports, which would be on top of 25% tariffs already in place on \$250 billion in imports. The threat dashed hopes that a resolution may come soon in the trade war between the world's two largest economies, and investors have grown increasingly concerned that it may drag on through the 2020 U.S. election. (AP)

(12) President-Elect ...

doesn't fit us," said Giammattei, a 63-year-old doctor.

"If we do not have the capacity for our own people, just imagine other people."

Guatemalans make up one of the largest groups emigrating from Central America because of poverty, unemployment and crime. Critics say it is hard to see how the country could offer a safe haven to migrants from other nations.

The agreement signed by the current Morales government is aimed at reducing the number of asylum seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration pressured Guatemala to sign the deal by threatening to punish Guatemala with taxes.

Giammattei, who takes office Jan. 14, said that annexes to the agreement are still being negotiated with the United States and that he would ask Morales to include members of his transition team in those talks.

The president-elect also noted that the agreement would have to be ratified by the congresses of both nations to go into force. There has been widespread criticism of the deal in Guatemala.

Giammattei pledged to recognize the importance of Guatemalan migrants living in the United States by creating a Washington-based Cabinet-level position to attend to migrant affairs.

"It is about time we had a government that cared for the people," he said. "It is these people (migrants) who are supporting us" with the remittance money they send back to relatives in Guatemala, he added.

"I do not think physical walls, or walls of weapons, can stop migration," Giammattei said. "I think what can stop migration are walls of opportunities."

On another matter, the incoming leader distanced himself from Morales' unpopular decision to not renew the mandate of the U.N.-sponsored anti-corruption commission that has played a key role in sending high-ranking politicians, including ex-presidents, to jail. But Giammattei also indicated he wouldn't work to bring back the commission, known as CICIG.

"The mandate has been terminated; the United Nations accepted that," he said.

He said he has no legal capacity or any other authority to ask Morales to renew the commission. "The CICIG is disappearing and history will judge whether Morales' decision was right or not," he said. (AP)

(13) U.S. Senator ...

He said such action had bipartisan support.

Cardin, a Democrat, has co-sponsored bipartisan legislation that would require the U.S. government to provide annual justification for the continuation of special treatment afforded to Hong Kong.

A 1992 U.S. law affords Hong Kong preferential treatment in matters of trade and economics compared with China. Areas of special treatment include visas, law enforcement and investment.

Cardin said Hong Kong enjoyed the special status in exchange for the "one country-two systems" arrange-

ment guaranteeing it a high degree of autonomy and human rights after its handover to China from Britain in 1997. "If China interferes with the autonomy of Hong Kong, then it does affect our agreements in regard to Hong Kong as far as the trade zone is concerned," Cardin said.

Cory Gardner, another leading senator who is Republican chair of the Senate's East Asia subcommittee, said on Twitter the Trump administration "must make clear to Beijing that any crackdown in Hong Kong will have profound consequences for China, including imposition of U.S. sanctions."

"The voice of the people of Hong Kong must be heard without fear of repression and retaliation. The Hong Kong government must fully guarantee the democratic rights of Hong Kongers, while Beijing must fully respect Hong Kong's autonomy. The world is watching," Gardner said. (Reuters)

(14) UK Court...

But that decision was overturned by London's High Court in June after judges agreed with the lawyer for Johnson - who became prime minister in July while the case was ongoing - that the magistrate's decision was flawed.

The lawyer also argued the case was politically motivated and the judges said the magistrate was wrong not to have considered it to be "vexatious".

Ball had asked for permission to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court but on Wednesday his application to do so was refused by the High Court. "This is a case of alleged misconduct in public office against the prime minister of the United Kingdom concerning repeated lies about the spending of the public purse," Ball said in a statement after the decision.

"It concerns the duties of Members of Parliament and mayors of London and as such goes to the heart of the United Kingdom's democratic process and public trust in it. Yet, according to Lady Justice Rafferty these are not matters of public importance." He said he was considering taking his case to European courts or appealing directly to the Supreme Court or launching another prosecution case against Johnson. (Reuters)

(15) Cryptocurrency ...

billion in damage to roads, bridges, homes and farmland, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli has said. It affected 4,400 villages, damaged 14,000 kilometers of roads and destroyed more than 700 bridges.

While US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at the time that Washington was ready to help via the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the IRCS said no foreign cash help had been given to the society.

According to the statement of Iran's local cryptocurrency society, "the volume of financial and non-financial international aid to Iran's flood victims has been insignificant compared to responses witnessed to natural catastrophes in other countries".

That means Iran has had to rely on its own resources to cope with the disaster, and so it does. Since its onset, the tribulation has triggered a deluge of humanitarian aid flowing in from every corner of the vast country.

However, the volume of damage is so high that people living in affected areas still face a number of small and major challenges months after the floods first hit.

Members of Iran's local cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem are convinced that they can still bring international donors on board.

"The unique decentralized nature of cryptocurrencies means they cannot be controlled or supervised by any central authority," they said in their statement.

"This will allow people from all over the world to donate to Iranian flood victims anonymously and quickly in spite of sanctions and other challenges."

Making their case at a news conference held at the prestigious Sharif University in Tehran, they launched IranRescueBit on Tuesday.

"Participants who decide to send financial aid will be able to choose their preferred international cryptocurrency (Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin at the moment) and send any chosen amount to a digital wallet address verified by the campaign," it added. (Press TV)