

**(1) 'No Timeline' ...**

ceasefire will be implemented after the complete withdrawal of American forces.

A Taliban spokesman in Doha Suhail Shaheen in a tweet on Tuesday said the talks will resume at 11 am Kabul time to discuss and agree on the remaining points.

At the same time, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, rejected the reports which say the United States will stop funding the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces as part of a peace deal between the US and the Taliban. (Tolo news)

**(2) Contract ...**

The AAF has 28 of the Mesa company's aircraft, with 154 more on order. In addition to the MD fleet, the AAF has 100 helicopters from the Russian Mil Mi-17 and Mi-24 series, and 43 US-made Bell, HAL and Sikorsky helicopters.

The MD-530 series is a light-duty aircraft and is based on the Vietnam-era OH-6 Cayuse, a light observation helicopter.

The modification was awarded by the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC) under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme.

MD 530F Cayuse Warrior (Model 369F) Light Scout Attack Helicopter is an armed variant of the Hughes OH-6 Cayuse light observation helicopter built by MD Helicopters. (Pajhwok)

**(3) MoI Implements ...**

The committee published its first report about corruption vulnerability in the MoI in February 2019.

In its latest findings, the committee has identified key corruption vulnerable areas in the Interior Ministry including procurement, human resources and logistics.

Bari Salam, a member of the MEC, said that the committee had identified corruption vulnerable areas in procurement, logistics and HR management in MoI after studies six months ago and then provided 56 proposals to the ministry.

So far, only three of these proposals have been fully implemented, 28 other recommendations are under work and five taken out of the list due to structural changes in the ministry, he said, adding 20 other suggestions were left untouched.

"Each recommendation has a specific amount of time during which it should be implemented and most of them timely were implemented but still many proposals are awaiting enforcement. All the proposals need to be implemented in the next six months," he said.

Most of the proposals which have been implemented or under work are about procurement and HR management at the ministry, he said.

He said reducing the number of closed contracts through a single source and training the ministry workers in coordination the National Procurement Institute, institutionalizing new filing system, starting e-payment to police and workers and filling vacancies were proposals which had been implemented or were under implementation.

He said a majority of their recommendations about reforms and preventing corruption in logistics area of the ministry were yet to be enforced.

Maiwand Rouhani, MEC secretary also said that the committee was closely working with the MoI on enforcement of the recommendations.

Nasrat Rahimi, MoI spokesman, welcomed the MEC report and said that progress in the proposals enforcement in the ministry would be announced in near future. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Dostum Questions ...**

Mr. Dostum aligned with Ghani in the 2014 presidential elections told his supporters in his native town of Sheberghan in the northern province of Jawzjan that there is a dire need to expedite efforts for bolstering the peace process in the country.

"We see the peace [talks] between the US and the Taliban continued for seven to eight months. The intra-Afghan negotiations might take more time," Mr. Dostum said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dostum said the president "does not have the ability" to break a "deer horn", referring to Mr. Ghani's recent comments at a campaign rally in Herat who said he will bring strongmen to their knees and that he has "broken their plastic horns".

"I think he has seen a deer without a horn and then claimed to have broken its horns. He [Mr. Ghani] has not seen these deers. Mr. Dr. Ashraf Ghani, these horns are not made of plastic, I swear they are sharper than a spear," Mr. Dostum said as he visited his farmhouse in Sheberghan.

Mr. Dostum's political reputation was badly damaged in 2016 after his former aide Ahmad Eshchi, who once as governor of Jawzjan, accused him of sexual assault.

Following the scandal, Mr. Dostum is rarely appearing at political gatherings despite being the first vice president of Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

**(5) 80pc of Female ...**

and urged the government to address their problems at the earliest possible. What officials say?

However, some media directors reject the allegations of non-payment of salaries and discrimination.

Mohammad Anwar Shahab, director of Sada-i-Qarya in Daikundi, said: "Many media outlets have been facing financial crisis and they have not been able to pay salaries to their staff timely."

He said, "Discrimination has no space in media outlets and we respect female journalists and we never allow our staff to have bad behavior with their female reporters."

Journalists defense organizations Mohammad Rajal, a media activist, also said delayed salaries, security threats, access to information, violence against female media workers and insufficient privileges were major reasons why female journalists left job in the province.

He said the issue had been shared with the authorities concerned to seek their support.

Government response Mohammad Ali Urzuzgani, the deputy governor, said they always held meetings with media outlets' directors about female reporters' problems but unfortunately they were refusing to cooperate.

Mohammad Hussain Seerat, Diadkundi information and culture department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News he would invite all media directors in the province to address female journalists' related issues as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Afghanistan ...**

U.S. President Donald Trump's move toward withdrawing troops from Afghanistan would end one of America's most expensive and longest wars. For the president, a successful draw-down would help his campaign for reelection next year, analysts said. The White House's effort to pull out comes after the Taliban fanned out across the country and captured more than half of its territory.

China, meanwhile, is playing the long game.

"China is taking a longer-term view of Afghanistan, which is based on its economic interests as the U.S. plans to step back," said Qazi Humayun, a former Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan and commentator on defense and regional security. He told Nikkei that a peace settlement will also allow China to expand its economic ties with the landlocked former Soviet republics of Central Asia using new routes via Afghanistan -- bolstering the Belt and Road.

Separately, retired Brigadier Farooq Hameed Khan, a Pakistani commentator on foreign policy, added that China's plans will likely include building a new network of highways to link Central Asia with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor via Afghanistan. "As China looks to the future, connectivity from Central Asia to CPEC will be an important priority," Khan told Nikkei. Furthermore, he added, contacts between China and the Taliban will lay the groundwork for closer security cooperation.

"China has had concerns in the past over Uighur separatists from its own Muslim Xinjiang region reaching out to Islamic groups in Afghanistan for support," he said. "As Beijing is now in regular contact with the Taliban, I am certain there must have been an understanding that the Taliban will not host Uighur separatists in the future."

At the same time, however, there is no guarantee peace will hold.

While many Afghan officials are optimistic, Western diplomats warn that a U.S.-Taliban pact would be only a first step toward restoring calm. "The Americans have been demanding consistently that there can be no lasting

peace unless the Taliban also strike peace agreements with other key players, notably the government of President Ashraf Ghani," said a second Western diplomat who spoke to Nikkei on condition of anonymity.

Ghani, who previously served the World Bank in Washington, became Afghanistan's president in 2014 with U.S. backing. Owing to his reputation as a Westernized individual, the Taliban have been doubly suspicious of him, said a Pakistani government official well-versed in Afghan affairs.

"The biggest danger is that the Taliban agreement with the U.S. may reduce the fighting in Afghanistan for the time being," he said. "Afghanistan has been at war for 40 years. They [Afghans] now have to settle down peacefully. The problem is that most Afghans consider war as the only way to settle a score." (Monitoring Desk)

**(7) Afghanistan's ...**

artificial coloring.

"We were extremely pleased with the test results," said Eng. Bashir Ahmad Rashidi, President of Afghanistan National Saffron Grower's Union. "This is a great starting point for our continued efforts in introducing Afghan saffron to global markets."

The Afghan growing environment is producing saffron products of remarkable quality. In addition to offering traditional packaging of the crocus 'threads,' the saffron producing companies are also exploring uses of liquid extractions for use in flavorings and nutraceutical applications. (Agencies)

**(8) Australia Concerned...**

Bureau on "suspicion of espionage," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Tuesday.

"The Chinese state security organs handled the case according to law and fully guaranteed the various rights of Yang Jun. Yang Jun is currently in good health," Geng said at a daily briefing.

Geng also expressed China's "strong dissatisfaction with Australia's statement on the case."

"The Australian side should earnestly respect China's judicial sovereignty and must not intervene in China's handling of the case in any way," he said.

Yang's Australian lawyer, Rob Sary, said the basis of the espionage charge remains unclear.

"We think it relates to espionage on behalf of Australia, but it's not specified on the charge sheet," Sary said. "We'd obviously be disturbed by that if it was the allegation, because there is absolutely no foundation for it at all." Sary suspects the espionage charge relates to Yang's democracy activism. "He's a blogger and that's what he does, he's an academic, he's of a different ilk," Sary said.

Yang has held Australian citizenship since 2002 and has a doctorate from the University of Technology Sydney. He had been living in New York as a visiting scholar at Columbia University.

Payne said she had discussed with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi the Australian government's concerns about Yang's detention.

"We have serious concerns for Dr. Yang's welfare and about the conditions under which he is being held," Payne said. "It is important, and we expect, that basic standards of justice and procedural fairness are met. I respectfully reiterate my previous requests that if Dr. Yang is being held for his political beliefs, he should be released."

Payne said Australia expects Yang to be treated in accordance with international human rights law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with special attention to those provisions that prohibit torture and inhumane treatment, guard against arbitrary detention and that protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Before Yang was moved into criminal detention, he had been held under so-called residential surveillance at a designated location. This can involve being guarded 24 hours a day with lights on continuously and torture including sleep deprivation, being tied to a chair or forced to stand for hours. (AP)

**(9) Norway Nuclear...**

The governor of Russia's Arkhangelsk region, where the blast took place, has dismissed reports of another explosion.

Russia's state weather agency said on Monday it had found the radioactive

isotopes of strontium, barium and lanthanum in test samples after the accident.

President Vladimir Putin has said the mishap occurred during testing of what he called promising new weapons systems.

U.S.-based nuclear experts believe the incident occurred during tests of a nuclear-powered cruise missile. (Reuters)

**(10) Farage Offers...**

there was more than a 50% chance of an election in the autumn and that if Johnson opted for "a clean break Brexit" then the Brexit Party would work with him so that the Brexit-supporting vote was not split.

"We would put country before party and we would do it every time," Farage told supporters in London. "We would be prepared in those circumstances to help him, to work with him, perhaps, I don't know, in the form of a non-aggression pact at the election." Farage, who once posed with Donald Trump in a gilded lift, has been cast by enemies as a delirious racist, though supporters credit him with a prescient contribution to the biggest political upset in modern British history - Brexit.

He says Brexit is being betrayed by an out of touch elite who do not understand that if they thwart Britain's exit then politics will be poisoned for a generation or more. (Reuters)

**(11) Hong Kong...**

demands of protesters.

"We should prepare for reconciliation in society by communicating with different people ... We want to put an end to the chaotic situation in Hong Kong," Lam said, adding she did not believe her government had lost control.

More demonstrations are planned over coming days and weeks, posing a direct challenge to authorities in Beijing, who are eager to quell the unrest ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct. 1.

Beijing warned again on Tuesday against foreign governments interfering in the Hong Kong protests, after the G7 summit of leaders of seven industrialized nations called for violence to be avoided.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing was "strongly dissatisfied and resolutely opposed" to the G7 "making thoughtless remarks and gesticulating" about Hong Kong matters.

On a visit to the southern province of Guangdong near Hong Kong, public security minister Zhao Kezhi said China would crack down on violent terrorist activities and firmly safeguard its political security.

Unrest in the Asian financial hub escalated in mid-June over a now-suspended extradition bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party. But the demonstrations have evolved over 12 straight weeks into a broad demand for greater democracy under the "one country, two systems" formula following the handover to China by colonial ruler Britain in 1997.

Authorities have so far refused to meet any of the protesters' five key demands: withdraw the extradition bill, set up an independent inquiry into the protests and perceived police brutality, stop describing the protests as "rioting", waive charges against those arrested, and resume political reform.

Since the movement started, police have arrested 883 people, including several minors, with the youngest just 12, they said on Tuesday. Those charged number 136, while 205 police officers have been injured. (Reuters)

**(12) Azerbaijan Invests...**

including 221 joint ventures.

"The development of bilateral economic cooperation is supported by Kazakh-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Commission on Economic Development," the report said.

As stated by the ministry, both parties are actively cooperating within the framework of international and regional organizations.

"Parliaments of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have developed close partnership. Active work for strengthening and further developing cultural and humanitarian development is underway. The countries exchange expertise and participate in various events on the territory of both countries. Relations Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan

are characterized by closeness of the positions on relevant issues of regional and international nature. Kazakh-Azerbaijan relations are developing in accordance with the Treaty on Strategic Partnership and Allied Relations, signed following the official visit of President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev to Baku in May 2005," the report said. The embassy of Kazakhstan to Baku was opened in December 1994, and the embassy of Azerbaijan to Kazakhstan was opened in March 2004. Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Kazakhstan's Aktau has been operating since September 2008. (Trend)

**(13) Iran's Rouhani...**

Rouhani said Iran was always ready to hold talks. "But first the U.S. should act by lifting all illegal, unjust and unfair sanctions imposed on Iran," he said in a speech broadcast live on state TV.

Speaking at a G7 summit in the French resort of Biarritz, Trump ruled out lifting economic sanctions to compensate for losses suffered by Iran.

"Washington has the key for positive change ... So take the first step ... Without this step, this lock will not be unlocked," Rouhani said.

European parties to the deal have struggled to calm the deepening confrontation between Iran and the United States since Trump pulled Washington out last year.

French President Emmanuel Macron has led efforts to defuse tensions and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif flew in to the Biarritz G7 meeting unexpectedly on Sunday for side talks with French officials.

Since ditching the deal last year, Trump has pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" to try to force Iran into broader talks to restrict its ballistic missile program and end its support for proxy forces around the Middle East.

"Iran does not seek tension with the world. We want security in the Middle East. We want better and friendly ties with other countries," said Rouhani. (Reuters)

**(14) Offer They Can't...**

controlling stake to two Chinese companies. This has raised alarms in Washington, where hawks worry that Beijing will acquire more than just the plant in Zaporozhye, but the technology and expertise to build helicopter and airplane engines.

Beijing Skyrizon Aviation Industry Investment had already tried to buy almost 49 percent of Motor Sich shares in 2017, but was blocked by the Ukrainian security services. Trade in Motor Sich stocks was frozen in April 2018, to prevent them from falling into unapproved hands.

Now Skyrizon has partnered with Xinwei Group to make another bid, this time for more 51 percent of the company's shares, while a 25 percent stake would go to Ukroboronprom, the state military conglomerate. The purchase must be approved by the Antimonopoly Committee - which is where Bolton comes in.

Ukraine's only aircraft engine plant, founded in 1907, has fallen on hard times since the 2014 coup in Kiev resulted in a trade war with Russia, formerly its biggest customer. Motor Sich is not the only defense giant to suffer, either. Antonov, for whose transport planes Motor Sich made engines, shuttered its doors in 2016 and folded into Ukroboronprom, after a deal to get Chinese funding for finishing the mammoth An-225 fell through.

Last August, after pressure from Washington stopped Motor Sich from working with the Chinese, one politician argued that it would only be fair for the US to step in as a customer.

"If the Americans do not want us to sell to the Chinese, let them buy our aircraft engines," said Oleh Lyashko. The controversial nationalist's party had 22 seats in the Rada at the time, but failed to clear the threshold in last month's parliamentary election, losing all of them. (RT)

**(15) In Spotlight after...**

2017, the Department of Defense picked a U.S. company instead of Greenland's Royal Arctic Line to ship goods to the base, causing further resentment among politicians and locals.

"It is only natural that we should make the most of the U.S. presence in Greenland, as we accommodate the defense cooperation on our land," Greenland's minister for foreign affairs Ane Lone Bagger told Reuters in an interview this week. (Reuters)