

### (1) US Troops...

with a force like they've never seen before," Trump said. But he added: "I don't see that happening."

The top U.S. military officer said Wednesday that it was too early to talk about a full American troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Pentagon reporters that any U.S. deal with the Taliban would be based on security conditions on the ground and that Afghan forces weren't yet able to secure the country without help from allied forces.

"I'm not using the 'withdraw' word right now," Dunford said. "It's our judgment that the Afghans need support to deal with the level of violence" in the country today.

Afghanistan's government expects that U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad will soon update officials in Kabul on the progress of peace talks with the Taliban.

Attacks continue

A Taliban spokesman also has said that they're close to a final agreement. But even as the talks go on, there are persistent attacks by the Taliban across Afghanistan, and an affiliate of the Islamic State group has taken hold in the country and has been expanding its base.

Even if Khalilzad is able to close a deal, it will remain for the Afghan government to negotiate its own peace agreement with the Taliban. Part of those talks will be determining a role for the Taliban in governing a country that it ruled before U.S. forces invaded in October 2001. (VoA)

### (2) 10-Year Plan ...

the year 2030 were achieved.

The SDGs are part of Resolution 70/1 of the UN General Assembly 2030 Agenda. Massour said UN member countries had assured their cooperation in implementing the targets till 2030 and the Afghanistan Ministry of Economy had chalked out a 10-year plan for this purpose in coordination with other countries.

Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah also addressed the conference and said implementation of national priority targets would lead to the nation to sustainable development.

He stressed on inclusion of universities and education institutions in implementation of these targets and added inclusiveness in this programme would help the government implement the goals.

He said the next government should identify the implementation of sustainable development goals as a priority.

Ali Ahmad Yousufi, Kateb University chancellor, also termed the role of private sector and universities as vital in achieving the sustainable economic goals and added Kateb University was ready to support the government in this regard. (Pajhwok)

### (3) MoU for 500kw ...

Mr. Amanullah Ghalib, CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshan Sherkat was present today August 29, 2019.

Acting Minister of Finance expressed his gratitude to senior energy specialist at ADB for providing information about the projects and said that the power transmission line would solve people's problems to a great extent in terms of energy.

In the meeting, the senior energy specialist at the Asian Development Bank briefed the Acting Minister of Finance on Uzbekistan 500kw power transmission line to Afghanistan and its budgeting and implementation issues.

The project cost is 120 million USD which 110 million of that will be financed by a grant from ADB special fund resources and the 10 million remaining will be financed by Afghan Government (in the areas of Property acquisition and security) and the project is going to be completed within 2 years.

At the end, MoU of Uzbekistan 500kw power transmission line has been

signed between Acting Minister of Finance, the Asian Development Bank and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Moscow Ready ...

The ninth round of talks began last week.

However, it is yet to be clear that whether US urge Russia for such role to play but some Taliban source earlier said that Russian and Pakistan would guaranty peace deal.

On the other hand, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Moscow would support Afghan security forces in fighting terrorism after peace deal.

Addressing a joint press conference with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Lavrov said Russian and India hold similar position about Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Taliban's Target ...

Rasoul Bacha, he recalled.

Some weapons and ammunition were seized by security forces during the nighttime raid, he concluded.

Shakrullah, a resident of locality, told Pajhwok Afghan News a gun battle took place in their village on Wednesday night. The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Dunford Links Troop's ...

He stressed that the counterterrorism force was "conditions-based," but suggested a deal with the Taliban could lead to conditions that allow for a drawdown. (Pajhwok)

### (7) No Compromise ...

Mohib assured commando forces that their effort would not be ignored and the country's leadership would never compromised on their future.

Work on the self-reliance of Afghan forces was underway and all equipment available with the modern militaries would provide to security personnel. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Kazakhstan Initiates...

member parties will be used.

The second initiative of the minister is the expertise exchange between member parties, implementation of new technologies, in particular deep processing of agriculture raw materials and manufacturing of goods with most added cost, activation of cooperation between private sectors of the member parties of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Especial attention has been given to the importance of development of direct links between regions of the countries and agriculture business of the countries.

The minister proposed to activate the cooperation between private sectors of countries by creating Islamic Organization for Food Industry.

The association is to focus on solving issues such as decrease of production costs, decrease of losses after harvesting, distribution and sale of goods, strengthening of technological chain, implementation of latest technologies and materials, which provide for synergy effect via decrease of production costs.

Islamic Organization for Food Industry will provide for strengthening of cooperation and trade ties between countries. (Trend)

### (9) Destination Remains...

destination. On Aug. 24, it had listed its destination as Mersin, Turkey, before removing that from its system. Earlier, it had said it was going to Greece.

Iskenderun is some 200 kilometers (125 miles) by sea from a refinery in Baniyas, Syria, where authorities alleged the Adrian Darya had been heading before being seized off Gibraltar in early July.

Iranian state media and officials did not immediately acknowledge the new reported destination of the Adrian Darya, which carries Iranian crude worth some \$130 million.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu denied the tanker was heading to Iskenderun and claimed it was going to Lebanon. Speaking in Oslo, Norway, the diplomat said

the Turkish state and Turkish private companies were no longer buying oil from Iran, in line with U.S. sanctions. "This tanker is not heading actually to Iskenderun port, this tanker is heading to Lebanon. And we follow actually very closely ... it is heading to Lebanon," the minister said.

But Lebanon's Minister of Energy and Water Nada Boustani tweeted that was not the case and that there is no request for the tanker to enter Lebanon. She also said Lebanon does not have a refinery to deal with crude oil. Since Trump pulled America out of Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers, Iran has lost billions of dollars in business deals followed by the deal as the U.S. re-imposed and escalated sanctions on Tehran, largely blocking Iran from selling crude oil aboard, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

In U.S. federal court documents, authorities allege the Adrian Grace's true owner is Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The U.S. declared the Guard a foreign terror organization in April, the first time America named a military force of a nation as such, giving it the legal power to issue a warrant for the vessel's seizure. However, that would require another nation to acknowledge the writ.

On Monday, Iran said the oil on the Adrian Darya had been sold to an unnamed buyer. However, anyone buying it likely would be targeted by U.S. financial sanctions. Analysts have suggested Iran may choose to offload the oil onto another ship first, given the international attention focused on the Adrian Darya. (AP)

### (10) Colombian Rebels' ...

further proof that the rebels, which are designated a terrorist group by the U.S., are plotting attacks from Venezuelan soil.

"We're not witnessing the birth of a new guerrilla army, but rather the criminal threats of a band of narco-terrorists who have the protection and support of Nicolás Maduro's dictatorship," Duque said in a televised address.

Added Guaidó: "All Venezuelans should reject these types of threats that undermine our sovereignty."

Their concerns were echoed in Washington, where U.S. officials reiterated accusations that Maduro's government has been actively conspiring with Colombian rebels, especially the more radical National Liberation Army, or ELN, which is believed to fund its insurgency by smuggling cocaine and gold through Venezuela.

"The regime in Caracas seems to be fomenting this kind of activity, in essence turning over parts of the country, particularly to the ELN," Elliott Abrams, the Trump administration's special envoy to Venezuela, told reporters.

Colombian authorities, so far with little evidence, have long asserted that Marín has been hiding out in Venezuela along with other top rebel commanders from the ELN and a group of dissident FARC rebels that never handed over their weapons.

In recent months, at least three meetings are believed to have taken place among the rebel commanders converging by small planes on the small Venezuelan town of El Nula, a lawless area heavily patrolled by Venezuela's military 30 kilometers (about 20 miles) from the border, said a Colombian military intelligence official, who insisted on speaking anonymously because he wasn't authorized to reveal the intelligence assessment.

The same official asserted that ELN rebels were present when Russian military instructors earlier this year trained members of Venezuela's armed forces in military doctrine and the use of explosives, although not necessarily with the foreigners' knowledge. The Associated Press was unable to verify the official's

claims.

Overall, authorities estimate as many as 1,000 ELN rebels — or around 40% of the group's fighting force — operate from Venezuela, where they plan attacks like the January car bombing at a Bogota police academy that killed more than 20 mostly young cadets.

Maduro and his allies have long denied they are providing material support to Colombian rebels, and portray the U.S. claims part of a Western media-hyped campaign to pave the way for an invasion.

A decade-long, U.S.-funded military buildup in Colombia forced the FARC to the negotiating table in 2012. Intelligence officials have long maintained that the rebels are unable to concentrate in large numbers inside Colombia for fear of being killed like a string of previous FARC commanders who were taken out in airstrikes using U.S.-provided intelligence and smart bombs.

That leaves socialist-ruled Venezuela, whose ideological affinity with the rebels is well known.

While Maduro played a key role in brokering the 2016 peace accord, he has increasingly flouted calls to banish the rebels as tensions with the U.S. and his neighbors have mounted. Last month, he even went so far as to announce that Marín and a close ally, Seuxis Hernández, wanted by the U.S. on drug charges, would be "welcome in Venezuela" as "leaders of peace." Hernández, better known by his alias Jesús Santrich, was seen in Thursday's video standing next to Marín holding an assault rifle. (AP)

### (11) Sanctions-Hit...

the allegations" that prompted what it described as "surprising" sanctions. The bank's statement said it has "unwavering commitment to ... international regulations on countering money laundering and terrorism financing".

Jammal Trust Bank has 25 branches in Lebanon and representative offices in Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Britain, its website says.

The bank is a relatively small lender. It had net assets of 1,600 billion Lebanese pounds (\$1 billion) at the end of 2017, according to the annual report on the latest year for which data is available.

Washington has sought to choke off Hezbollah's funding worldwide, with sanctions among a slew of steps against Tehran since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew last year from a 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran.

Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil joined Salameh in seeking to reassure depositors.

"I am certain of the banking sector's ability to absorb the implications ... and guarantee the money of depositors," he wrote on Twitter, adding that the central bank is "doing what is necessary".

The Lebanese government has vowed to make urgent progress on reforms to ease economic troubles that prompted ratings agency Fitch to cut the country's credit rating this month. Lebanon has one of the world's heaviest public debt burdens at 150% of GDP. The impetus to enact reforms has grown with the slowdown of deposits into its banking sector, a critical source of finance for the state. (Reuters)

### (12) Ebola Death...

have struggled to stop the virus spreading in remote and conflict-hit areas of eastern Congo, where many locals are wary of the response effort. Nevertheless, the World Health Organization said the latest Uganda case highlighted the border authorities' skill at detecting and isolating potential sources of transmission.

"This case was picked up at the border," WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said at a briefing in Geneva.

"The people who are at the borders have the expertise."

This is Congo's 10th Ebola outbreak, but it is the first in the densely forest-

ed hillside provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, where militia-led violence and ethnic killing have undermined security in certain areas for decades.

The WHO declared the epidemic an international health emergency in July - only the fifth outbreak to warrant this status since the system was introduced in 2005.

The authorities have since come up against new fronts in their fight to contain the virus, testing the reach and flexibility of responders.

Health workers confirmed the first cases in South Kivu province on Aug. 16. Soon after, a woman contracted the virus in a remote, militia-controlled territory in North Kivu, hundreds of kilometers away from other known cases.

"The response is being spread too thin chasing new cases at the expense of the longer-term community engagement that is crucial if we're ever to hope of being Ebola free," Oxfam's Congo Director Corinne N'Daw said in a statement. Despite the virus spreading to new areas, the past week's transmission rate was little changed from that of the past month and a half, which has seen an average of 77 new cases per week, according to the WHO. (Reuters)

### (13) Warsaw, Washington...

at a joint news conference with U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, who has come to Poland for the anniversary.

In June, Poland signed a deal to increase the American military presence on its soil to counter Russia's growing assertiveness since its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Poland has a border in the northeast with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, where Moscow has deployed advanced nuclear-capable Iskander missiles.

The military deal signed in June will increase the number of non-permanent U.S. troops in Poland by 1,000. There are on average about 4,500 U.S. troops in Poland on rotation as part of NATO forces.

"Poland has been an outstanding partner of the U.S. and NATO, spending more than 2% of GDP on defense," Bolton told the conference. He added that Trump's visit will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Apart from declarations about military cooperation, some analysts had expected Trump to comment on energy and technology cooperation, and possibly on easing U.S. visa requirements for Poles.

An aide to Polish President Andrzej Duda said on Thursday that Trump may visit in the coming months.

"Probably some part of the declarations, which only the U.S. president can make, will be delayed (...) and probably some of the declarations will wait for his visit to Warsaw," minister at Polish president's chancellery Krzysztof Szczerski told public radio.

He did not reply directly to questions about relaxing the visa regime, saying only that there are talks about Polish-US "cooperation". (Reuters)

### (14) Turkey in 'Talks'...

fighters. Washington was trying to pressure Ankara into scrapping a contract to buy the Russian S-400 air defense missile system. Turkish officials refused to budge, insisting the country is free to get weapons from whoever it chooses.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu noted that Turkey prefers sticking to its original plan of getting the jets from the US, as well as remaining in the F-35 program. However, the country will explore other options, if that does not happen, he said.

Turkish officials have been saying that Washington should deliver the F-35s as promised. At the same time, they warned that Ankara will look for alternatives elsewhere, not only in Russia. "If the United States maintains its current stance on the F-35s, we will take care of this," Erdogan stressed. (RT)