

Turkey Says Trump Working on Extraditing Wanted Cleric Gulen

DOHA - U.S. President Donald Trump has told his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan that Washington is working on extraditing a U.S.-based Muslim cleric accused of orchestrating a failed Turkish coup in 2016, Turkey's foreign minister said on Sunday.

"In Argentina, Trump told Erdogan they were working on extraditing (Fethullah) Gulen and other people," Mevlut Cavusoglu said, referring to the G20 summit where the leaders met two weeks ago.

Turkey has long sought the extradition of Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed U.S. exile for nearly two decades. A former ally of Erdogan, he is blamed by Turkish authorities for

the failed coup when rogue soldiers commandeered tanks and helicopters, attacked parliament and shot unarmed civilians.

Gulen denies any involvement in the failed putsch. Trump said last month he was not considering extraditing the preacher as part of efforts to ease Turkish pressure on Saudi Arabia over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul.

Erdogan said last week Turkey would start new initiatives abroad to target the financing of Gulen supporters.

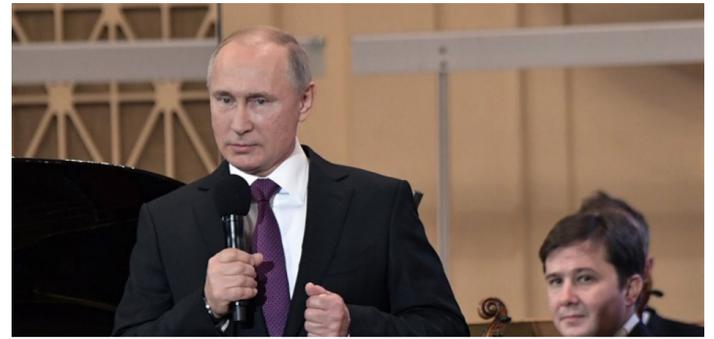
"I have recently seen a credible probe by the FBI on how the Gulen organization avoids taxes," Cavusoglu told a conference in Doha. (Reuters)

Putin Says Rap Should be Controlled in Russia, Not Banned

MOSCOW — Alarmed by the growing popularity of rap among Russian youth, President Vladimir Putin wants cultural leaders to devise a means of controlling, rather than banning, the popular music.

Putin says "if it is impossible to stop, then we must lead it and direct it."

But Putin said at a St. Petersburg meeting with cultural advisers Saturday that attempts to ban artists from performing will have an adverse effect and bolster their popularity. Putin noted that "rap is based on three pillars: sex, drugs and protest." But he is particularly concerned with drug themes prevalent in rap, saying "this is a path to the degradation of the nation."



He said "drug propaganda" is worse than cursing.

Putin's comments come amid a crackdown on contemporary music that evoked Soviet-era censorship of the arts.

Last month, a rapper known as

Husky, whose videos have garnered more than 6 million views on YouTube, was arrested after he staged an impromptu performance when his show was shut down in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar. (AP)

(1) Afghanistan, China...

on the matter.

China is willing to work with Afghanistan and Pakistan to seriously implement the results achieved at the 2nd China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, promote the continuous improvement of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and further push forward the development of the trilateral cooperation.

For his part, Ghani said his country is willing to deepen pragmatic cooperation with China, expand trade and increase personnel training.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Counter-Terrorism signed by Afghanistan, China and Pakistan will strongly push forward the regional anti-terrorism cooperation, and the Afghan side will continue to firmly strike all forms of terrorism, the Afghan president said. Wang also met with Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah here on Saturday.

The Chinese state councilor said the two countries have witnessed friendly development of bilateral relations thanks to the support from the leaders of both sides and the two peoples.

China is willing to work with Afghanistan to further strengthen personnel training, enhance local-level cooperation, improve people's livelihood, steadily advance the aid programs for Afghanistan and further push forward the cooperation in all fields between the two sides, he said.

Wang said the 2nd China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue has achieved positive results and reached consensus. On the basis of fully respecting the willingness of the Afghan side, China is willing to continue playing a constructive role and support the Afghan government in pushing forward the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process so as to achieve the inclusive political reconciliation at an early date.

China appreciates the progress achieved in the improvement of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, supports the two countries to strengthen dialogue, promote mutual trust and continue to improve bilateral relations. China is willing to work together with the two countries to deepen anti-terrorism cooperation and fight terrorism in all forms, Wang said.

Abdullah, for his part, said the two countries have witnessed the sound development of bilateral ties with cooperation in every sector yielding fruitful results.

Afghanistan will continue to support China on issues con-

cerning China's core interests, Abdullah said.

Afghanistan is devoted to pushing forward the peace process in the country and is willing to continue improving ties with Pakistan, Abdullah added. (Xinhua)

(2) All Non-Biometric...

We don't want a dictator president," Hekmatyar said.

Hekmatyar further said that Hizb-e-Islami will not nominate an independent candidate in the presidential election, but the candidate will be introduced in coordination with other parties." Hekmatyar also criticized government's advisory board for peace, saying its role should not be advisory but it should have full authority to decide during negotiations.

"All political parties denied joining advisory peace board except government officials," Hekmatyar added.

The formation and authorities of the High Advisory Board for Peace, which encompasses incumbent and ex-government officials, political parties and some prominent politicians, was faced with mixed reactions last week on Thursday, as the political committee of the political parties called the formation of the new body unacceptable.

The political parties have stepped up their separate efforts to negotiate with the Taliban, said the committee of the political parties.

Meanwhile, officials from the High Peace Council (HPC) have criticized what they call defects in the structure of the new board. This comes after the Afghan government on Tuesday announced the establishment of the high advisory board for peace and a peace negotiating team of government members, aimed at creating a national consensus for brokering purposeful peace talks with the Taliban.

The peace advisory board encompasses at least 17 political and Jihadi personalities. But a difference of opinion among the political parties shows their views are not unanimous regarding the nature of the peace process with the Taliban. (Tolo news)

(3) Afghanistan Launches...

Justice Minister and the Chair of TIP High Commission Dr. Abdul Basir Anwar. He emphasized the need for all stakeholders in Afghanistan to work together to protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

Participants attending the launch learned that women, men, and children from economically marginalized communities are at the greatest risk of trafficking in Afghanistan. USAID Acting Deputy Mission Director, Elizabeth

Chambers stated, "Trafficking in persons affects the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly women and youth. USAID and the U.S. government will continue to stand with the Afghan people against these horrific practices that undermine the rule of law, corrupt global commerce, foster gender inequality, and threaten global security."

Due to the absence of a centralized national database and referral mechanism, counter trafficking stakeholders in Afghanistan are not able to identify, refer, and assist the victims of trafficking properly. "A national referral mechanism and online database helps the Afghan government strengthen protection measures to effectively implement the new law to combat the trafficking and smuggling of people," said IOM Afghanistan Chief of Mission and Special Envoy Laurence Hart. (PR)

(4) Top Leaders Praise...

To follow up on discussions on economic and trade cooperation, the Afghan finance minister would be visiting Pakistan in near future, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Korea Donates...

delivered to an estimated 21,000 conflict and natural disaster affected families (58% being children) in the worst affected provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor, a package of essential non-food items including blankets, family kits including kitchen sets, tarpaulins and children winter clothing kits.

The Korean Ambassador His Excellency RHEE Zha-hyoung said, "I am saddened by the fact that around 83,000 families across the country are in need of assistance to fight back cold and hunger during the harsh winter season. Children who are already suffering from malnutrition and weak immune systems are more vulnerable to cold winter weather, and I thank UNICEF for taking the lead in helping those children in a prompt and timely manner." The internally displaced children are in desperate need of assistance. Many continue to live in makeshift structures, tents and inadequate shelters that will expose them to sub-zero temperatures, heavy snow and strong winds.

Malnutrition rates remain high amongst displaced children. Of the over 19,000 children screened in the provincial Herat and Badghis IDP settlements, more than 1,300 were found to be severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases and were referred for treatment at facilities in both provinces.

Over 3 million people including an estimated 1.6 million children are affected by the impact of

drought across the country. The number of food insecure population is likely to increase to over 6 million people during the winter season.

With the significant drop in temperatures, there are reports of an increasing number of patients with acute respiratory tract infections, many of whom are children, and winter related deaths. UNICEF will continue to prioritize its winterization response. Despite our best efforts, more still needs to be done and US\$4 million is urgently required to meet immediate lifesaving needs of affected population. Without additional funding, UNICEF will not be able to support about a quarter of million drought-affected IDPs over half of whom are children. (PR)

(6) Military Operations...

loved ones lost their lives," said a local resident, Khawjah.

"Three people were killed and two or three others were wounded," said Hussain, a Paktia resident.

Reports from other provinces also indicate that fresh waves of violence have occurred in some other parts of the country.

According to local officials, foreign forces are also supporting the Afghan forces in the battles.

"Operations are ongoing. We have outlined inclusive plans for a major operation. Meanwhile, operations will be carried out in districts which have lost their main centers over the past three years," Ghazni governor Wahidullah Kalimzai said.

"The Resolute Support Mission is fully supporting us. We also have their air support," Ghazni Police Chief Rahmatullah Sediqqi said.

This comes as the level of violence has not dropped this winter like the previous years as the Taliban continue to attack Afghan forces in different parts of the country.

The two sides have claimed that they had inflicted major casualties to their opponents.

Local officials in Ghazni have said that the security forces conducted 36 operations in the province last month which were backed by the NATO's Resolute Support forces. (Tolo news)

(7) Use of Pakistani...

Rokhan, another protester, promised they would no longer allow trade in the Pakistani rupees. He urged government officials to initiate concrete steps in this regard.

Civil society activist Mohammad Jalal Haqiqat Zadran noted the provincial administration had created a commission to promote the circulation of the afghani.

However, he claimed, the plan had failed so far to achieve the objective. He hoped the move would yield a positive result in near future. (Pajhwok)

(8) At Least 20 Afghan...

know that a number of civilians, including women and children have been killed but we are sending a fact finding team," he said. The number of Afghan civilians killed in U.S. and Afghan airstrikes has risen sharply this year as Western-backed forces have stepped up aerial operations with the aim of forcing the Taliban to agree to peace talks.

According to United Nations figures, 313 civilians were killed and 336 wounded in airstrikes by U.S. and Afghan forces in the nine months to the end of September, a 39 per cent increase from the same period in 2017.

Airstrike casualties accounted for eight percent of the total 8,050 civilian casualties during the period. The overall number of civilian casualties was roughly stable. (Reuters)

(9) Pakistan Builds...

Major General Asif Ghafoor said that work on the forts and fences continued on the 2,600-km-long Pakistan-Afghan border.

The spokesman said on Twitter that work on 233 of 843 forts and 802 of 1,200 km prioritized areas has been completed.

The project will "benefit peaceful people of Pakistan and Afghanistan while restricting terrorists," he wrote on Twitter. (Xinhua)

(10) Newly-Appointed...

of haji Ghulam Mohammad who is the brother of Haji Mohammad Musa, president Ghani's aide.

Haji Ghulam has confirmed his intervention and claims that Ghafari has been elected as the mayor by committing forgery.

This comes as efforts are underway to increase the role of women in the government leadership and the country's first female mayor was appointed for Neli city of Daikundi province few months back. (KP)

(11) 35 Paktika Schools...

there were growing illiterate.

On the other hand, Aziz Aziz, a member of the Provincial Council, blamed the closure of several schools in the province on weak management of the provincial Education Department.

"Schools are open in several Taliban-controlled areas and the other schools which are closed should be reopened by the department concerned."

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters had not closed any school in Paktika province. He said they instead were working to 'strengthen' the education sector. (Pajhwok)