

White House Closer to Partial Shutdown with Wall Demand

WASHINGTON — Pushing the government to the brink of a partial shutdown, the White House is insisting that Congress provide \$5 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border despite lawmaker resistance from both parties.

Without a resolution, parts of the federal government will shut down at midnight Friday.

"We're going to do whatever is necessary to build the border wall to

stop this ongoing crisis of illegal immigration," White House senior adviser Stephen Miller said Sunday.

Asked if that meant having a government shutdown, he said: "If it comes to it, absolutely."

President Donald Trump said last week he would be "proud" to have a shutdown to get Congress to approve a \$5 billion down payment to fulfill his campaign promise to build a border wall. (AP)

(1) US, Taliban...

Afghanistan and noble humanitarian missions it undertakes in support of the people of Afghanistan. Recently, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, while speaking in the northwestern city of Peshawar, explained his country has agreed to assist in Afghan peace efforts because Washington has changed its position by requesting help, instead of saying Islamabad is not doing enough, as US leaders have previously insisted.

On Saturday, a spokesperson for the US embassy in Kabul hailed Khan's remarks and support for a political reconciliation in the war-ravaged neighboring country.

"The United States welcomes any actions by the Pakistani government to promote greater cooperation, including fostering negotiations between the Taliban, the Afghan government, and other Afghans," the spokesperson said as quoted by the VOA.

"Special Representative Khalilzad has met, and will continue to meet, with all interested parties, including the Taliban, to support a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan," noted the US embassy official.

In his speech on Friday, Khan said that if peace were achieved in Afghanistan, his country will be the immediate beneficiary in terms of security, economic stability and regional connectivity.

In reaction to Khan's statement, officials at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Sunday said the meeting would mark Islamabad's first practical step towards the peace process in Afghanistan if it happens.

MoFA spokesman Sibghat Ahmadi said Pakistan's cooperation in the peace process in Afghanistan is crucial.

"The United States has also increased its pressure. So far, we have achieved some results, but we hope that these results are achieved in larger scale," said Ahmadi.

But, one member of the High Peace Council (HPC) said Taliban officials from Quetta shura will not attend the meeting, but Taliban's representatives from Qatar office will talk to the Americans in the meeting.

"Taliban representative from Qatar will attend these talks," said HPC deputy chief Assadullah Zaeeri.

"Talks between Taliban and Khalilzad must take place in Qatar. If these talks are held in other country including Pakistan, I don't think that a positive result from the talks is achieved, because this will further complicate the peace process," said political affairs analyst Nazar Mohammad Mutmaen. Afghan and US officials have often called on Pakistan to convince the Taliban to attend the peace table. (Tolo news)

(2) Wraps...

large provinces such Nangarhar will possibly be announced in the next few days. But some oth-

er provinces such Kabul... I think will have delays in the announcement," added IEC commissioner, Maliha Hassan.

Over 2,500 candidates were in the October 20 parliamentary elections race, for 250 seats in the lower house of parliament. Kabul province has 33 seat reserved in parliament. (Tolo news)

(3) Modern...

will be transferred to Afghanistan in the next month or two, when activities will begin," MAIL spokesman Akbar Rustami said.

Agriculture ministry officials said, along with the identification of pests and disease at the lab, solutions too will be sought to overcome problems to prevent diseases in agricultural fields, as well as among livestock.

According to officials, staff to run the lab and machines, are undergoing training.

"We have well-experienced employees of whom most have Master's degrees, gained from inside and outside the country. From the laboratory, they can identify all plant diseases and pests," Naqibullah Baburi, head of the plants protection department at MAIL said.

Agriculture, irrigation and livestock ministry hopes that after the inauguration of the complex, the number of agricultural-related diseases will decrease. (Tolo news)

(4) MPs Summon...

secretary, confirmed to Pajhwok the summoning of the five ministers had been added to next week's agenda.

Under Article 92 of the Constitution, the Wolesi Jirga, on the proposal of 20 percent of members, shall make inquiries from each minister.

If the explanations given are not satisfactory, the house shall consider the issue of a no-confidence vote.

The no-confidence vote against a minister shall be explicit, direct as well as based on convincing reasons. The votes shall be approved by the majority of members. (Pajhwok)

(5) Modern Banking...

a number of residents stressed the need for expansion of banking services in the country.

They called on government to increase banking services in remote areas of Afghanistan.

"By using this device, we are paying the salaries of one institution even in most remote areas. This works as a bank branch," said Asif Behroz, a technical staff of a private financial firm.

Analysts said banks should increase investment in the country so that banking culture is further promoted. (Tolo news)

(6) Facilitate...

President Ashraf Ghani late on Saturday.

In a statement on Sunday, Sherpao also called for concrete actions to strengthen regional cooperation in various sectors. Greater cooperation was needed to ensure regional

Turkmen Avaza to Host 1st Caspian Economic Forum

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan plans to hold the 1st Caspian Economic Forum in its coastal resort Avaza on August 12, 2019, the Caspian Sea Day, Trend reports citing the Turkmen government.

It is worth noting that on the initiative of Turkmenistan, the decision to hold the forum was made at the 5th Summit of the Heads of State of the Caspian littoral states held on August 12 this year in Aktau, Kazakhstan.

The issue of preparing for the Cas-

pian Economic Forum was recently discussed at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

According to the Turkmen Dovlet Khabarlary state news agency, the President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stressed that the development of fruitful cooperation with the countries of the Caspian region is among the priority vectors of Turkmenistan's foreign policy, based on the principles of positive neutrality, good neighborliness and mutually beneficial part-

nership.

"The strategic importance of the Caspian Sea in regional and interregional geopolitical and geo-economic processes, its role as an important transit and transport and logistics hub necessitate the further integration of efforts of the Caspian states for the implementation of key areas of cooperation with a view to a long-term perspective," the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper quoted Berdimuhamedov. (Trend)

prosperity, he argued.

"Pakistan should facilitate the Afghan peace process and help create an enabling environment to end the ongoing conflict there," added the QWP head, who has also served as a former federal minister.

Peace could not be restored to the region unless stability was brought to Afghanistan, Sherpao remarked, arguing that stability was central to development and progress. (Pajhwok)

(7) Parties to Consider...

We will consider the time and will use options which could lead to a transparent election," said Gulajan Abdulbadi Sayyad head of the IEC. Ten-finger biometric scan with eye scans and voter photos on the election day, deployment of biometric identification when voting, providing effective monitoring of parties from all election processes and necessary reforms in electoral documents and procedures are the main demands of the political parties. (Tolonews)

(8) Trump to Review...

to open a new investigation after Golsteyn was previously cleared. His attorney, Phillip Stackhouse, tweeted that Golsteyn is charged with "premeditated murder, a death penalty offense for allegedly killing a Taliban bomb-maker during combat operations in Marjah, Afghanistan."

A US military spokesperson confirmed the charge to AFP but said, "We are not at liberty to discuss details of an ongoing case or investigation to ensure the rights of the accused are protected."

Speaking on Fox, Stackhouse on Sunday denied "a narrative... put out" by the military in which Golsteyn "released this Taliban bomb-maker, walked him back to the house... and assassinated him in his house."

As to why his client is being charged now, Stackhouse said, "The prosecutor in this case has intimidated me that they have new evidence."

Golsteyn's wife Julie, also appearing on Fox, denied that her husband had "killed someone in cold blood" and said that "there are a lot of words flying around that make this very difficult for us as a family."

Golsteyn is due to report to Fort Bragg in North Carolina on Monday, she said.

The US has fought a grinding 17-year war against Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan -- a bloody, destructive and expensive conflict for which there is no end in sight. (AFP)

(9) Government is...

meeting between officials of Political Office of Islamic Emirate and American side is going to be held tomorrow on 17th December 2018, 10thRabbi-ul-Thani 1440, in the United Arab Emirates," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement.

The statement further added that representatives of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and United Arab Emir-

ates will also attend the meeting alongside officials of both sides. (KP)

(10) Wolesi Jirga Poll...

Shah Khan Sherzad has polled 1,996 votes

Eng. Mohammad Din Hamdard has got 1,905 votes

Mohammadullah Baktash has earned 1,699 votes,

Haji Mohammad Omar Khan has earned 1,631 votes,

Fazel Karim Iymaq has got 1,586 votes

Nilofar Jalali Kofi has gained 1,257 votes

Dr. Fatima Aziz has received 1,042 votes

Herat:

Habib Rahman Pidram has got 16,796 votes

Mohammad Reza Khoshak Watandost has won 16,140 votes

Omar Naseer Mujadidi has earned 10,929 votes

Haji Mohammad Sadiq Qaderi has received 10,171 votes

Munawar Shah Bahaduri has polled 8,324 votes

Nesar Ahmad Faizi Ghoriayee has received 7,612 votes

Naqibullah Arian has bagged 7,306 votes

Ghulam Farooq Majroh has gained 7,004 votes

Hamidullah Hanif has earned 6,946 votes

Shapur Popal has got 6,920 votes

Syed Azim Kebrzani has received 6,582 votes

Ghulam Farooq Nazari has got 6,263 votes

Rahima Jameh has bagged 3,686 votes

Masooda Kurkhi has won 2,822 votes

Simeen Barakzai has received 2,323 votes

Nahid Farid has won 1,959 votes

Sherin Shahabi has polled 1,773 votes

Helmand:

Mohammad Zafar Sadiqi has gained 4,041 votes

Mirwais Popal has won 3,573 votes

Ghulam Wali Afghan has received 3,341 votes

Mirwais Khadem has got 3,164 votes

Mohammad Karim Atal has bagged 2,798 votes

Abdul Rashid Azizi has earned 2,580 votes

Nasima Niazaai has received 1,463 votes

Wajiba Sadat has received 818 votes

Kandahar:

Sayed Ahmad Khadem has bagged 8,186 votes

Syed Muqtada Miran has got 7,419 votes

Mahmood Khan Nasrat has received 7,041 votes

RohullahKhanzada has polled 6,471 votes

Gul Ahmad Kamin has earned 5,082 votes

Mohammad Omar Sherzad has won 4,497 votes

Syed Ahmad Selab has received 4,143 votes

Eng. Mohammad ArifNoorzai has got 3,976 votes

Fareba Ahmadi Kakar has bagged 4,965 votes

Malalai Ishaqzai has won 2,900 votes

Arezo Safi has received 1,848 votes

The panel said the results announced were preliminary and they could be referred to the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) in case of objections.

Earlier, the IEC had announced initial results from 25 provinces, saying outcomes from the remaining provinces would be unveiled soon. (Pajhwok)

(11) 5 Militants...

PKM machine gun, and two compounds of the militants were also destroyed in the airstrikes, the 205 thAtal Corps added.

The anti-government armed militant groups including Taliban have not commented regarding the airstrikes so far.

Uruzgan is among the relatively volatile provinces in South of Afghanistan. The Taliban militants are active in some of the districts of Uruzgan and often carry out terrorist related activities. (KP)

(12) 6 Civilians Killed...

Taliban captured a youth from our village in connection of having links with the government, these people had met the Taliban for releasing that man but they all were killed in an airstrike," he said.

He identified the victims as Jamal Din, Abdul Mobin, Asadullah, Mohammadullah, Mohammada Jan and Dawajan.

However, Logar police spokesman, Shapor Ahmadzai, said that Afghan air forces targeted a Taliban vehicle in Dabara area of Charkh district.

He said that six Taliban rebels were killed in the incident.

Taliban confirmed the airstrike. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid said that US forces killed six civilians in an airstrike in Charkh district Sunday night. (Pajhwok)

(13) Protesting Candidates...

invalid, we want response to our 28 demands that we have submitted to the IECC and want clarification about votes cast by Waziristani refugees for some candidates."

Ajab Noor Mangal, another protesting candidate, they would not lift the blockade of Gardez-Khost road and the governor's office until the commission responded to their demands in a positive way.

"When votes of 91 polling stations were recounted, a huge difference was found between the results provided at the end of Election Day and the result after the recount."

Supporters of these candidates also warned of widespread protests if the commission failed to address their demands.

Kamal Khan and Hayat Khan, residents of Khost, said. "We want transparent votes to be separated from fake votes." They warned the gate of the governor's house would remain shut if their demands were fulfilled.

IEC head for Khost Shah Jahan Sardari rejected the allegations of the protesting candidates about rigging in the interest of certain candidates. He said the recount of all votes was above their authority and asked the candidates to convey their demands to the central IEC office. (Pajhwok)