

(1) Kabul Seeks...

In his comments in Washington, Trump said Pakistan was helping the United States "extricate" itself from Afghanistan, where the United States was acting as a "policeman" rather than fighting a war.

"If we wanted to fight a war in Afghanistan and win it, I could win that war in a week. I just don't want to kill 10 million people," Trump told reporters at the White House where he was hosting Khan.

"I have plans on Afghanistan that, if I wanted to win that war, Afghanistan would be wiped off the face of the Earth. It would be gone," he said.

"It would be over in — literally, in 10 days. And I don't want to do — I don't want to go that route."

Senior Afghan politicians largely refrained from comment, but commenters on social media were infuriated.

"Your insulting message to (Afghanistan) is either accept the (Pakistani) proposal for peace or eventually you may have to use nukes," former intelligence chief Rahmatullah Nabil wrote on Twitter.

"The statement was embarrassing and an insult to all Afghans," said Shakib Noori, an entrepreneur based in Kabul, the capital.

Khaled Hosseini, the Afghan-American author of the best-selling novel, "The Kite Runner", which introduced Afghanistan to many foreign readers, called Trump's remarks "reckless, appalling".

Others said the government had no effect recourse, pointing to its dependence on billions of dollars of aid from the United States every year.

"Those who feed you also command you," one commenter, Yazdan Hatami, wrote on Facebook.

Looking to soothe sentiment, U.S. Special Envoy Zalmay Khalizad, the veteran Afghan-American diplomat who has been leading negotiations with the Taliban, said the comment showed that only a political settlement made sense.

Trump "reiterated to the world that there is no reasonable military solution to the war in Afghanistan, and that peace must be achieved through a political settlement," he wrote on Twitter. "Pakistan committed to do all it can to achieve peace." (Reuters)

(2) UN Habitat...

She said the UN Habitat, which assists Afghans in social and physical reconstruction areas, had been active for the past two decades in Afghanistan.

Sharif said she met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and some other officials and discussed with them issues such as strategic importance of urbanization, creating work opportunities, prosperity, development and peace.

She called unplanned residential buildings 'a challenge' in the world and said she also talked in this regard with the Afghan officials.

"The UN Habitat supports the Afghan government's land reforms, particularly property registration in unplanned areas and allocation of government land for displaced families and returnees," she said.

She said UN Habitat would provide technical assistance to Afghanistan in programs such as 'City for All' survey and registration of properties in 12 cities of Afghanistan and distribution of property ownership documents to houses built in unplanned areas.

"We attended an event on Saturday where the president was distributing ownership documents to people, I welcome this initiative, most families and women would be helped to have ownership documents of their properties," she added.

Sharif said the UN Habitat was working together with the Afghan government on specifying land for internally displaced families and returning refugees. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghan Athletes...

Hesam Rahimi also won a bronze medal after beating his rivals from

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The championship was started on Sunday and finished on Tuesday with the participation of 32 Asian teams.

Iran, South Korea, Uzbekistan and Jordan won first and fourth place, respectively.

Afghanistan got the fifth position after getting 29 points. (Tolo news)

(4) Besides Higher...

"I had no good life before I started this job, now our livelihood is getting better with each passing day, thanks God," she said.

She said women could do any activity and play an effective role in improving their families' economic situation.

Fatima has developed good relationships with other women who make women's clothes and then sell them in her own shop.

"Our business is good not only for ourselves, but also for the women who make women clothes," she said. Khurshid is another woman who produces dairy products such as yogurt, milk, butter, cream, cheese and others and sell them in Bamyan city.

A resident of Qarghana Toi area of Bamyan city, Khurshid said that she prepared these products from milk of her cows and sheep.

She said she could earn around 15,000 afghanis a month from her business. She asked the government to provide loan service to women who ran independent businesses so they would be able to promote their businesses.

Zakia who works in a farm receives some vegetables in return of her work on a daily basis.

While removing weeds from a potato farm, she said, "I am an uneducated woman, I cannot do other jobs, my economic situation is also not so good, so I am obligated to work in farms."

She said she worked for three to four hours in the field in return for some vegetables.

Ali Reza Hassanzada, managing director at Bamyan Chamber of Commerce and Investments, told Pajhwok that the number of women running independent businesses was increasing with each passing day in the province.

He said that 38 handicraft associations and two women's associations were active in Bamyan.

He said local Bamyan officials were trying to provide loan services to women in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rahman Ahmadi, spokesman for the Bamyan governor, said that the governor's house was trying to further encourage businesswomen in the province. Hassanzada said that 40 shops were opened for women in Bamyan city and 30 other shops in Yakawlang district of the province. He said efforts were underway to offer women loan services. (Pajhwok)

(5) Britain's New...

whom Johnson has previously made derogatory remarks. In 2015, he accused Trump, then a candidate for office, of "stupefying ignorance" that made him unfit to be president.

The victory for one of Britain's most flamboyant politicians places an avowed Brexit supporter in charge of the government for the first time since the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU in the shock 2016 referendum.

But Johnson - known for his ambition, untidy blond hair, flowery oratory and cursory command of policy detail - takes office at one of the most tumultuous junctures in post-World War Two British history.

The pound has fallen sharply in recent weeks on fears of a no-deal Brexit, and stands near \$1.24 GBP=D3, around its lowest level for two years. With Johnson's win already priced in, it was little changed on Tuesday. (Reuters)

(6) 'He'll Be...

consistent. Last August, he praised the president, suggesting that the UK would be better off if Trump took over the Brexit talks. "There is

method in his madness," he said at the time.

But Johnson was far less flattering during his tenure as mayor of London. In 2015, he slammed Trump's "stupefying ignorance" after the president claimed there were dangerous "no-go areas" in the British capital. Those comments made him "frankly unfit to hold the office of president of the United States," Johnson said at the time. (RT)

(7) South Korea ...

that two of its Tu-95MS bombers were on a routine flight over neutral waters and didn't enter South Korean territory.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the South's fighter jets didn't fire any warning shots, though it said they flew near the Russian planes in what it called "unprofessional maneuvers" and posed a threat.

"If the Russian pilots felt there was a security threat, they would have responded," the statement said, adding: "This is not the first time that South Korean pilots tried unsuccessfully to prevent Russian aircraft from flying over the neutral waters of the Sea of Japan."

A South Korean defense ministry spokesman told Reuters that Seoul never said the Tu-95 bombers had violated its airspace. He did not directly address the Russian accusation of reckless behavior.

The incident could complicate relations between the two nations and raise tension in the region that has for years been overshadowed by hostility between the United States and North Korea.

South Korea said it was the first time a foreign military plane had violated South Korean airspace since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea's presidential national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, told top Russian security official Nikolai Patrushev that South Korea views Russia's airspace violation "very seriously" and will take "much stronger" measures if a similar incident occurs, according to South Korea's presidential office. (Fox News)

(8) Kim Jong-Un...

territorial waters.

Pyongyang is believed to have one of the largest submarine fleets in the region, although many of the vessels are either dysfunctional or considered outdated by world standards. However, it has not abandoned efforts to build a submarine that would be able to carry ballistic missiles.

Back in 2016, after several years of development, North Korea reported that it successfully tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile. Shortly afterwards, Kim declared a moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests while engaging in denuclearization talks with the US and South Korea. The news comes amid a lull in bumpy dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang. Donald Trump and Kim have met on three occasions, most recently on the North-South border in June, but the talks have not yet produced tangible results. (RT)

(9) Israeli Forces...

the administration of the Palestinian Authority (PA). The separation barrier left Wadi Hummus on the Israel side of the structure, even though it remains part of the West Bank. The buildings that were demolished had permits issued by the PA.

Their destruction was condemned as a "grave aggression" by Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, who said that a complaint would be made to the International Criminal Court. "This is a continuation of the forced displacement of the people of Jerusalem from their homes and lands - a war crime and a crime against humanity," he said.

Last week UN officials called on Israel to halt its demolition plans and the EU said the policy "undermines the viability of the two-state solution and the prospect for a lasting peace." (RT)

(10) Trump to Host...

dinner last month when the two attended a Group of 20 summit in Japan. They spoke briefly with reporters.

Morrison said Trump had a standing invitation to visit his country when a U.S. and international golf team competed for the 2019 President's Cup. Trump declared that Morrison's victory didn't surprise him.

"They called it an upset, but I don't call it an upset," Trump told him. "It's a fantastic thing you did."

A White House state dinner is a glamorous affair that showcases global power and influence, typically featuring hundreds of guests and an exchange of toasts between the two leaders.

The White House said the visit will celebrate the two countries' close friendship and shared history, and reaffirm a common vision for global peace and prosperity. (AP)

(11) Hong Kong...

with metal rods and wooden poles beat up anti-government protesters and others inside a subway station late Sunday night. The attack injured 45 people, including a man who remained in critical condition. Beijing supporters had tussled with protesters previously, but not on this scale.

Neither side wants China's People's Liberation Army to step in, but the growing chaos and what China will see as a direct challenge to its authority raise the risks. The thuggish attack on the protesters brought accusations of connivance between police and criminal gangs, though Hong Kong's police commissioner flatly denied it and it remained unclear who was behind it.

Any intervention by China would likely bring international condemnation and could endanger Hong Kong's status as a financial center governed by rule of law. It would also draw comparisons to China's deadly military crackdown on Beijing's pro-democracy Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, an event the government wants the world to forget.

For China, it's not just an economic question but also a political one. Hong Kong, a former British colony, was returned to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" concept that gives the city a fair degree of autonomy over its affairs. Hong Kong residents have much broader rights and freedoms than mainland Chinese.

The success of the formula is important to China, which wants to use it to bring the self-governing island of Taiwan back under its control. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen is already using the unrest in Hong Kong to argue that "one country, two systems" doesn't work, and a Chinese military intervention would confirm the fears of many Taiwanese.

The best outcome for China would be a deescalation of the protests and a return to relative normalcy, as happened after the last major pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong, the student-driven "Umbrella Movement" that occupied streets for more than two months in 2014.

Many of this summer's protesters are Umbrella Movement veterans who were disappointed that those protests failed to bring about change. At least some have shown themselves unwilling to back down this time — but the question is how far they will push, and how far Beijing will let them.

"The problem is that it is not entirely up to the central government," said Zhang Lifan, a Chinese historian and political commentator. "If the radical people in Hong Kong put forward the advocacy of independence, making the situation spin out of control, the central government will certainly intervene."

That is not the most likely outcome, but with no clear way out of the ongoing protests, they could well escalate further, making Beijing more skittish.

Among the many messages the pro-

testers have taken to spray-painting on walls is "Hong Kong is not China." On one level, it is a statement that Hong Kong has a more independent legal system and greater freedoms than the mainland — the "one country, two systems" principle.

On another level, it reflects a growing disenchantment with life as part of China, not only political but also economic. An influx of Chinese money is blamed for pushing up real estate prices beyond the reach of many young people. Some demonstrators have carried the Hong Kong flag from the British colonial era at protests.

For China, losing Hong Kong a second time would be worse than a collapse of the "one country, two systems" model. The pro-Beijing government in Hong Kong last year outlawed a political party that advocated independence for the city of 7.4 million people.

"One begins to wonder whether the Chinese Communist Party wants Hong Kong to descend into chaos, so that it has an excuse to step in, or whether its mismanagement means that such chaos is inevitable," said Kevin Carrico, a senior lecturer in Chinese studies at Monash University in Australia.

The ruling Communist Party values stability above all, a choice it made in deciding to end the Tiananmen protests by force. It has since become a mantra that the stability the party has brought to China has underpinned the country's rise to become the world's second-largest economy, lifting millions out of poverty.

China's stability has come at a price to personal freedoms such as free speech. Under current President Xi Jinping, the party has sought to increase control over society, from religion to social media, in moves that have reverberated in Hong Kong.

Both the Chinese and Hong Kong governments have turned around the protesters' argument that the rule of law is under threat by saying it is the violent acts by some protesters that are threatening the rule of law in Hong Kong. "At the end of the day, it is the young people who will suffer the most if Hong Kong's prosperity and stability are damaged," pro-Beijing lawmaker Regina Ip said Monday. Her statement illustrates a fundamental divide over the future of Hong Kong, between a more conservative pro-Beijing establishment focused on stability and economic growth and a liberal youth that feels left out and is clamoring for democracy. It is the failure to close this divide, in repeated cycles of protests over the years, that keeps nudging Hong Kong and the government in Beijing closer to the tipping point. (AP)

(12) India's Top...

Millions of people have been displaced by the floods after torrential rains battered the region.

Work on the Supreme Court-ordered citizenship register has been going on since 2015 and a draft list published last year excluded more than four million of the state's residents, triggering widespread fears of deportation and jail.

Critics accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government of using the citizenship exercise to further marginalize minority Muslims and bolster its support in the majority Hindu community.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party denies any bias but says it is opposed to the appeasement of any community.

Last week, the Modi government sought more time to compile the final list, saying thousands of people had produced fake documents to try to become Indian citizens.

Aman Wadud, a lawyer in Assam who is fighting cases for some of those declared illegal immigrants, said he hoped the extension would give authorities time to make the register "free, fair and credible". (Reuters)