

GM to Close Canadian Factory, Putting 3000 Jobs at Risk: Reports

MONTREAL - General Motors is to announce on Monday the closure of a factory in Canada, putting almost 3,000 jobs at risk, Canadian news media reported.

The decision is part of the US automaker's plans for a comprehensive global restructuring, channel CTV reported Sunday, citing several anonymous sources. Other media, including Radio-Canada/CBC, had similar reports.

The plant in Oshawa, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of Toron-

to, was built in 1953, according to the manufacturer's website.

It currently employs 2,800 people and assembles Chevrolet and GMC pickups as well as Chevrolet Impala and Cadillac XTS sedans, the website says. "I'm hoping it's just a rumor," Oshawa Mayor John Henry said. "Until we hear something, we don't know."

Henry said that his father, two brothers and a sister either worked or are currently working at the GM plant. "I worked there as a contractor," he added.

Unifor, the labor union representing plant auto workers, said they have not heard "complete details of the overall announcement," but were told that no cars are slated for assembly at the plant past December 2019.

"Based on commitments made during 2016 contract negotiations, Unifor does not accept this announcement and is immediately calling on GM to live up to the spirit of that agreement," the statement said. The union planned to hold talks with General Motors on Monday. (AFP)

Israeli Minister Says He's Invited to 2019 Conference in Bahrain

JERUSALEM - An Israeli cabinet minister said on Monday he had been invited to attend a conference next year in Bahrain, in what he described as part of Israel's emerging relations with Arab and Muslim countries that do not formally recognize it.

Israel's diplomatic push in the Gulf, where it sees Arab states as its natural allies against regional powerhouse Iran, has become increasingly public after years of covert contacts.

Shared worries about Iran or needs in terms of security, agriculture and water have thawed hostility toward Israel among some Arab governments. After a surprise trip to Oman last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday hosted a first visit by Chadian President Idriss Deby.

"I myself received a personal invitation to Bahrain," Israeli Economy Minister Eli Cohen said in a radio interview. (Reuters)

(1) Geneva Summit to...

of participating countries and organizations.

The conference provides a platform for the Afghan government and the international community to demonstrate progress and commitment and maintain the momentum of presidential elections and opportunities for peace and security.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Finance (MoF), foreign ministers from 62 nations and powerful delegations of 35 assisting organizations would take part in the conference. President Ghani and UN secretary general would co-chair the conference.

According to the statement, Afghanistan's progress and the reform agenda would be discussed and necessary steps would be taken for the remaining years of the period between 2014 and 2024.

The evaluation and oversight of \$15.2 billion pledged by the international community for Afghanistan in 2016 would be an important segment of the multi-national conference.

The summit also aims to emphasize the importance and implementation of mutual commitments made by the Afghan government and the international community towards reform and development. (Pajhwok)

(2) Govt Offices...

line is underway and once finished, the electricity shortage problem would solve," he said.

However, he did not provide information when the line's extension work would be completed but said the process had some problems which he said they hoped would be solved.

Ghalib said Kabul currently required 700 megawatts of electricity but the DABS could only provide 400 megawatts in Kabul and the outages were due to shortage of electricity.

He said load shedding was managed in all areas of Kabul and no area experienced 24 hours electricity blackout.

"From the imported electricity, 150 to 200 megawatts is consumed in 37 districts of seven provinces including Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Herat, Helmand and Maidan Wardak but DABS cannot collect its bills from consumers there," he added.

"We cannot cut their power connections because the power lines are extended through the mentioned areas, the power cables in these areas have been cut 270 times this year alone," Ghalib said.

He said according to some sources the Taliban collected electricity bills in the mentioned districts but DABS had no evidence in this regard so far.

On the other hand, Ghalib said government offices in total owed 4.9 million afghanis in unpaid bills and strongmen and government officials 4.1 million afghanis.

He did not name any strongman but said they had prepared a list of such figures and had shared it with the Presidential Palace, the Chief Executive Office and the Attorney General Office.

He said of 1,400 megawatts of electricity consumed in Afghanistan, 80 percent of it was imported and the

rest generated at home. (Pajhwok)

(3) IEC Says...

the presidential and other three elections as 'fair and suitable' but added the decision was not yet final.

He said the new date was made part of the detailed schedule for the upcoming presidential, Wolesi Jirga polls in Ghazni province and district council elections.

Based on this schedule, the registration process for the presidential election candidates will begin on January 1, 2019 and will continue until January 28 and the election campaign for presidential candidates will begin on May 12 until July 11.

The presidential election and three other elections are scheduled for July 13, 2019, according to the new schedule. Primary results of the presidential election would be announced on August 11 and final results on September 15.

Yousuf Rashid, executive head of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) criticized the IEC and said the delay of presidential election was a violation of the Constitution.

Ali Raza Rohani, IECC spokesman, also said the delay was in contradiction with the Constitution. "The new election date is in contradiction with the Constitution," he said.

Article 61 of the Constitution says: "Elections for the new President shall be held within thirty to sixty days prior to the end of the presidential term."

In line with the Constitution, the delay in the presidential election is against the law and a clear violation of the Article 61 of the Constitution. Sayyad, referring to Rohani's point of view, said, the law was not a 'verse of the Quran' which could not be violated, adding that the IEC was striving to take decisions according to the law.

Syed Jawadi, a member of the Eqtedar-i-Melli party, said no authority or individual has the right to say the law is not "a verse of Quran' which could not be violated.

He stressed in line with the law the presidential election should be held before the end of the tenure of the sitting president. (Pajhwok)

(4) UK Announces...

items shelter essentially tents, blankets, vital assistance to those facing Afghanistan's harsh winter that will help probably a quarter of million or more Afghans.

The other half of the assistance, he said would be particularly for food needs, for cash transfers, for other basic needs and we expect that this will benefit 600,000 Afghans.

Ambassador Key said the effects of drought was being felt particularly hard in the west of the country and the UN had recently raised its estimates of the numbers of Afghan who are facing complex humanitarian needs to 6.6 million Afghans.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announcing the aid, said: "UK will provide vital food, shelter and clean water to Afghans affected by one of the worst droughts the country has ever faced,"

A statement from the British embassy quoted her as urging other donors to step up alongside UK and join the international efforts to sup-

port some of the world's most vulnerable people and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.

Mordaunt said: "This deadly drought is already affecting millions of Afghans, many of whom have had to leave their homes and livelihoods in desperate search of basic necessities."

Today's UK aid package of £25 million is new funding from the UK Department for International Development's crisis reserve fund. It comes on top of £10 million provided to the drought response by DFID earlier this year, bringing DFID's total spend on the humanitarian response in Afghanistan to £67 million, the statement said.

The aid package provided by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) as following: Provide tents and urgent relief items for up to 260,000 people who have fled their homes ahead of a bitter severe winter

Provide 602,660 people with food or cash transfers to buy essential items, with a monthly ration of special nutritious food to prevent malnutrition in young children for every household

Provide drought-affected people with access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation so they can remain in their homes over winter.

The UK is the second largest humanitarian donor in Afghanistan. UK aid is helping to build a more stable, prosperous country for all Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(5) Taliban Attacks...

chief when it came under attack, said another council member, Abdul Samad Salehi. The newly appointed chief was also killed, said Qaneh.

In northern Faryab province, the Taliban attacked an army check point in Qaisar district, killing 10 troops, said Mohammad Tahir Rahmani, head of the provincial council.

Three soldiers were wounded while the fate of five others was unknown. The Taliban, who in recent years have taken over nearly half of Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the Farah attack, the latest in a series of brutal, near-daily Taliban assaults on Afghan military and security forces throughout the country.

The insurgents made no statement on the Faryab assault. The Taliban view the U.S.-backed government in Kabul as a dysfunctional Western puppet and have refused repeated offers to negotiate with it.

The protesters in western Kabul were rallying to denounce the arrest of Abdul Ghani Alipoor, a Shiite militia leader in western Ghor province. The Afghan intelligence service accuses Alipoor of leading an illegal armed group that is behind extortion and other mafia-like behavior in the region.

On Sunday, hundreds clashed with police during a similar Shiite protest in Kabul. In that demonstration, three policemen were shot and wounded and 20 were injured by stones thrown by protesters who also torched two police checkpoints. Beside Kabul, there were also protests on Monday in northern Balkh and central Bamyan provinces but no reports of violence there.

"I can hear sporadic sound of shoot-

ing form the area," said lawmaker Nasrullah Sadeqizada of Monday's protest in Kabul. The member of parliament lives near the area and spoke to The Associated Press over the phone.

Mahobullah, a resident from the area who uses only one name, said hundreds of protesters were carrying posters of Alipoor, shouting: "Alipoor is innocent" and demanding that he be set free.

During a previous attempt to arrest Alipoor, in June, security forces in Ghor clashed with his followers, leading to the deaths of seven civilians and four policemen. (AP)

(6) Alipoor Released...

"He has not committed any crime, he was just fighting Taliban," another protester said.

Kabul police chief Sayed Mohammad Roshandel told TOLONews on Monday that protesters had set fire to police check posts in the area and were clashing with police forces.

Roshandel said a number of protesters had been armed and that over 20 security force members were wounded during apparent shooting incidents.

According to Roshandel, Alipoor is an illegal armed commander and was arrested on the orders of the Attorney General's Office.

"He has been arrested on the orders of the Attorney General's Office. He will be released after the investigations if he is proven innocent," said Roshandel.

According to the witnesses Police has fired on the protesters in several provinces and tens of people have been wounded and about five people have been shot dead.

After the Kabul demonstration started, protesters also took to the streets in Bamiyan, Daikondi, Herat and in Mazar-e-Sharif, in Balkh province. They were also protesting against Alipoor's arrest.

By early Monday, dozens of protesters were also marching through the city of Mazar for the second day. (Tolo & DOA news)

(7) UN Calls to Support...

equitable and sustainable development of the country."

A barometer of a country's commitment to its human rights obligations is how it addresses the various forms of violence its women and girls suffer. Under the 2030 Agenda, Afghanistan committed to end violence against women and girls.

"Afghanistan's commitment can only lead to positive results for the nation, communities and families where women and men take responsibility to transform the harmful attitudes that drive violence against women and girls, to respect and treat women and girls with equal rights as men and boys, and to support survivors of violence, hear their voices, and accept survivors within society," said Aleta Miller, Representative of UN Women in Afghanistan.

During the 16 Days Campaign, the Afghan government, supported by United Nations, intensifies its advocacy and awareness-raising activities to address violence against women and girls in Afghanistan. The campaign runs until 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

Recalling Article 22 of the Constitution of Afghanistan 2004 on non-discrimination and equality of men and women, Yamamoto and Miller reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to support efforts by Afghan institutions and civil society to end all forms of violence against women and girls. (PR)

(8) SDF to Finance...

and collaboration.

In his welcome address Dr. Sunil Motiwal mentioned that SDF is committed to achieve key objectives including thereby promoting the welfare of the people of SAARC region, improving their quality of life, and accelerating economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in South Asia. While talking about the project objectives Dr. Motiwal said that this project will enhance the livelihood of small farmers in SAARC region through Value addition of existing practices in the field of agriculture. The project will be implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

During the meeting, Implementing Agencies were briefed regarding SDF policies and procedures related to project administration for effective implementation of the project and effective coordination.

The meeting resulted in better understanding of Implementing Agencies regarding SDF policies and procedures related to project administration and developed key project documents including action plans and monitoring frameworks. (PR)

(9) 5 Persons Held...

Ministry of Interior Affairs is committed to fight against narcotics and Afghan Counter-Narcotics Special Operation Police are having major success in fighting against smugglers and narcotics, which will continue." (Pajhwok)

(10) 640 Incidents...

head of the provincial Attorney Office (AG), said they had so far this investigated 147 incident of violence against women in the province.

"Since the beginning of the ongoing year, 147 incidents of violence had been addressed which included right to work, barring from work, burning, right to education," he said.

He said more incidents of violence against women were reported because of awareness among women about their rights.

Ateya Elahi, in charge of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) for Herat, said the incidents of violence addressed so far were insufficient.

"We have the law, but unfortunately it is not implemented, some cases are not followed and thus the criminals roam free," she said.

The International Day, marked every year on 25 November, represents the start of the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

This year's theme - "Orange the World #HearMeToo" - is focused on supporting survivors and amplifying voices of advocates to end violence against women and girls. (Pajhwok)