

(1) Ghani: We Must ...

election at all-- given the dire scenario." Ghani is concerned about the process being drawn out unnecessarily.

"We do not have time for a months-long power struggle this time," Ghani said, referring to the crisis in the 2014 presidential elections that led to the creation of the National Unity Government with shared power between President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

"We need to proceed, and a government with two heads as we had in the last five years will not succeed in this scenario," Ghani said in the interview.

Ghani's main rival Abdullah Abdullah has already claimed victory for the election, in which almost 2.8 million people have voted, according to current numbers provided by Afghanistan's Election Commission.

"We are confident that the election will not go into a runoff. We assure our people and partners who put faith in our campaign that we will not allow fraud to determine the results," Abdullah said in a tweet on Monday. (Tolo News)

(2) Iran, Afghanistan ...

meeting is aimed at reviewing and approving the agency's programs and budget, as well as advising on international protection and discussing a range of other issues with UNHCR and intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

ExCom's Standing Committee meets several times each year to carry on the body's work between plenary sessions. (MNA)

(3) Afghanistan's Pine ...

1,700 tons of pine nuts have met international standards and were exported to China, the Gulf and Europe over the past few years. The amount is expected to increase this year.

The price of Afghan pine nuts rose sharply in local markets following inauguration of the air corridor between Afghanistan and China. A single kilogram of pine nuts in local markets is up to 2,800 Afghanis (35\$), compared to 1,500 Afghanis a few months before the opening of the air corridor.

The overall prices of Afghan black pine nuts is estimated at 2\$ billion annually. Pine nut trees are mostly found in Afghanistan's eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, Kunar, Paktia, Khost and Paktika provinces. (Wadsam)

(4) Afghanistan Braces ...

months," Stepanek said. "Then we will have a weak government. A lame duck."

About 4,500 complaints have been filed since the Sept. 28 election, providing possible ammunition for the loser to reject the results. The Independent Election Commission said on Sunday that some biometric verification machines were lost.

Turnout was an estimated 2.6 million votes, about one-quarter of eligible voters, following threats by the Taliban against voting stations.

Negotiations about withdrawing U.S. troops in exchange for Taliban security guarantees broke down in September, although the two sides held exploratory talks in Islamabad last week.

The next step would be negotiations between the Taliban and Afghan government about a ceasefire and the Taliban's future role. The militant group has so far rejected any talks with the government. (Reuters)

(5) Nadiem Amiri ...

Ludwigshaven-born midfielder did not receive an actual phone call from Joachim Löw. On the contrary, Amiri called Löw.

The Germany coach did not have Amiri's number, so had to ask assistant Marcus Sorg to call the -22-year-old midfielder and ask him to ring Löw back. "I gave him a call straight after training," Amiri said after Leverkusen's Bundesliga draw against RB Leipzig on Saturday.

Amiri's senior call-up comes after representing Germany at all youth levels. The midfielder also won the under21- Euros with Germany in 2017 and was a key part of the side that lost to Spain in the final this summer.

'A justified call-up'

A tricky midfielder who isn't afraid to dribble and take risks, Amiri's ability to find spaces in attack and use them creatively makes him a player who could provide a distinct set of skills for Löw as he continues to re-build the German national team.

After recovering from a foot fracture in the first half of last season, those traits saw the -22-year-old score three goals and assist two more in the run-in as Hoffenheim ultimately finished ninth, enough to earn him a 96m (9.9\$m) move to Bayer Leverkusen.

"He has earned the call-up long ago," said Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz, who hasn't hesitated in making Amiri a central part of his plans. The midfielder has started the last four games for the Werksel, repaying Bosz's trust with two assists in the recent win over Augsburg.

Afghan football fans react Amiri's call-up to the national team has not gone unnoticed in his parents' country of origin, Afghanistan, where reactions from football fans in the country have been largely positive.

"We have an international football player, but he plays for a different country," said one Twitter user, not alone in wishing Amiri all the best with Germany.

But there have also been more critical voices. "We are waiting for you. Germany has many footballers and they're all superstars, but for us he's needed," one Twitter user lamented.

But Amiri's decision to represent Germany looks to be final as he seeks to make the most of the chance given to him, maybe even against Argentina in Dortmund on Wednesday.

"It's what I've always dreamed of," Amiri said. (DW)

(6) Water Crisis ...

He said many people especially had fallen ill after using the contaminated water. "Due to lack of clean drinking water, we have been in a very difficult time as we use dirty water, which causes many diseases," he added.

He warned of a major epidemic outbreak disaster if the issue was not addressed at the earliest possible.

Mohammad Naeem, another affected inhabitant, complained of lack of potable water. "We spend many hours every day and travel long distances to find water pipe and 30 to 40 people wait in lines for their turn, we are in a serious trouble," he added.

He said they had shared the issue with local authorities, the provincial council and other organs, but to no avail.

Juma Gul Yaqobi, the provincial Public Health Department head, told Pajhwok that lack of water resources, warm weather and lack of potable water were causes of diseases such as diarrhea and respiratory problems.

"Rivers' water is completely unhealthy, we have a large number of patients who are suffering from digestive system, most of the cases are related to unhealthy water," he added.

Abdul HaiKhatibi, the governor's spokesman, said that for the past 10 years, different government and non-governmental organizations had been trying to supply water from remote areas to Ferozkoh city, but due to the intervention of powerful individuals, they had not been able to do so.

"A number of administrations have conducted surveys within the city and have decided to transfer water from the two rivers Dahan-i-Tasriqi and Band-i-Amir but unfortunately people did not allow this as they believed it would damage their crops and farming." He said the local government was committed to addressing the problems with available financial resources and in cooperation of partner institutions as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

(7) Anti-Daesh ...

Daesh --- has been cleared of the insurgents.

Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News that only five percent of Bandar Valley was still under Daesh influence and the Afghan forces were working to clear it too.

He said after the operation, the Nangarhar governor and all other local officials would visit Achin district and hear problems of local people and then launch development projects there.

No survey has been launched to assess the damage caused in Achin district during the war. However, officials say hundreds of houses have been destroyed and most of the primary services haled in the district for the last four years.

Haji Akhtar, a tribal elder from Achin, asked the government to provide them residences in their area again.

He said the conflict had destroyed their houses, roads, bridges, mosques, schools and other facilities.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Haroon Yousufzai, spokesman for 201 Silab Military Corps

in the east, said that 11 security posts would be activated in Bandar Valley to protect people against insurgent threats.

Daesh militants are said to be still active in two other valleys, Mamand and Abdul Khail of Achin district. (Pajhwok)

(8) New Contribution ...

immediately after emergencies. These families will receive two month food rations including fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, pulses, iodized salt, high energy biscuits and specialized nutritious foods for children "In Afghanistan people have been suffering from natural disasters such as drought and flood that caused huge loss of assets and severe shortage of food and animal production especially recent years. In addition to that, many people are living in the insecure circumstances. Now 2 million of internally displaced persons (IDPs) need humanitarian assistance for survival in this country. Keeping this in mind, Government of Japan decided the humanitarian assistance through a reliable partner, WFP." mentioned Mr. Takahashi.

In the first half of 2019, WFP's assistance reached more than 3.2 million people across the country, including nearly 2.4 million drought-affected people. In 2019, WFP plans to reach 5.2 million people in the country.

Japan is a solid supporter of WFP, having donated US200\$ million (21.5¥ billion) in the past ten years to WFP operations in Afghanistan. In addition to food assistance, Japan has been assisting Afghanistan's nation-building efforts in various fields including security, infrastructure, agriculture, rural development, human capacity development, education, health, culture etc. The cumulative Japanese assistance to Afghanistan since 2001 amounts to more than 6.6\$ billion.

The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

WFP has been working in Afghanistan since 1963 with the aim of helping Afghans build a hunger-free future for themselves and their country. WFP food is distributed on the basis of need, without regard for ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. (PR)

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(9) Police Investigator ...

Monday "six other policemen, including the head of the police intelligence department, went to the area to investigate the incident and were wounded by an IED," officials said.

The Mol and local officials have claimed the Taliban is responsible for the attack, but no group, including the Taliban, has yet claimed responsibility for the blast. (Tolo News)

(10) Faryab Girl, Boy ...

police cannot take any action. The Taliban insurgent group has not made a comment about the report yet. About two months ago, Taliban lashed out a boy and a girl after being accused of having relations in Pashtun Kot district of the province. (ATN)

(11) India Accuses ...

depicting a woman who lost her -22-year-old son after he had been bitten by a snake because she couldn't find an antidote in time to save him. "All actors of the United Nations system must address this dire and unacceptable situation," she said.

India's Paulomi Tripathi, the first secretary of the country's mission to the UN, was quick to hit back. She avoided directly naming Pakistan, saying instead "one delegation has callously chosen to politicize this agenda by making unwarranted references to internal matters of my country."

Tripathi then continued: "As they covet territory of others, they camouflage their vile intentions with fake concerns." She took a final swipe at Pakistan, saying it is "ironic" that a nation, where "violations of women's right to life in the name of 'honour' go unpunished," is making "baseless" statements about her country.

The Indian government revoked Kashmir's autonomy in August and heightened security measures in the area, insisting it would help curb terrorism and lead to more economic development. The change, however, severely angered Pakistan, which

claims the whole of Kashmir as its territory and says New Delhi has no right to unilaterally alter its status. (RT)

(12) Turkey Says Won't ...

went too far.

The US president later cast his decision to abandon the Kurdish fighters in Syria as fulfilling a campaign promise to withdraw from "endless war" in the Middle East, even as Republican critics and others said he was sacrificing a US ally and undermining American credibility.

Even Trump's staunchest Republican congressional allies expressed outrage at the prospect of abandoning Syrian Kurds who had fought the Islamic State group with American arms and advice. It was the latest example of Trump's approach to foreign policy that critics condemn as impulsive, that he sometimes reverses and that frequently is untethered to the advice of his national security aides.

"A catastrophic mistake," said Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the No. 3 House Republican leader.

"Shot in the arm to the bad guys," said Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Trump said Monday he understood criticism from fellow GOP leaders but disagreed. He said he could also name supporters, but he didn't.

Trump appeared largely unconcerned at the prospect of Turkish forces attacking the Kurds, who include a faction he described as "natural enemies" of the Turks.

"But I have told Turkey that if they do anything outside of what we would think is humane ... they could suffer the wrath of an extremely decimated economy," Trump said.

This all comes at a pivotal moment of Trump's presidency. House Democrats are marching forward with their impeachment inquiry into whether he compromised national security or abused his office by seeking negative information on former Vice President Joe Biden, a political rival, from Ukraine and other foreign countries.

As he faces the impeachment inquiry, Trump has appeared more focused on making good on his political pledges, even at the risk of sending a troubling signal to American allies abroad.

"I campaigned on the fact that I was going to bring our soldiers home and bring them home as rapidly as possible," he said.

The strong pushback on Capitol Hill prompted Trump to recast as well as restate his decision, but with renewed bombast and self-flattery.

He promised to destroy the Turkish economy "if Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits."

One official described that White House announcement the US would get its troops out of the way of the Turkish forces as a botched effort appeared aimed at making Trump look bold for ending a war. The official said attempts by the Pentagon and State Department to make the statement stronger in its opposition to Turkey's military action were unsuccessful.

An official familiar with the Erdogan call said the Turkish president was "ranting" at Trump, saying the safe zone was not working and that Turkey couldn't trust the US military to do what was needed. And in reaction, Trump said the US wanted no part of an invasion and would withdraw troops.

Trump's statements have reverberated on all sides of the divide in Syria and the Mideast.

In the Syrian capital of Damascus, Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad called on the country's Kurds to rejoin the government side after apparently being abandoned by their US allies.

Mekdad's comments were the first Syrian reaction since Trump's announcement on Sunday and as northeastern Syria braces for an imminent Turkish attack on Syrian Kurdish militias. Trump's statement has infuriated the Kurds, who stand to lose the autonomy they gained from Damascus during Syria's civil war, now in its ninth year.

"The homeland welcomes all its sons and Damascus will solve all Syrian problems in a positive way, away from violence," Mekdad said in an interview with the pro-government daily Al-Watan.

As for the expected Turkish incursion, he added that the Syrian government "will defend all Syrian territory and

will not accept any occupation of any land or iota of the Syrian soil."

The Syrian Kurdish force has pledged to fight back, raising the potential for an eruption of new warfare in Syria. "We will not hesitate for a moment in defending our people" against Turkish troops, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said in a statement, adding that it has lost 11,000 fighters in the war against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Turkey, which considers Kurdish fighters in Syria terrorists and links them to a decades-old insurgency in Turkey, has already launched two major incursions into northern Syria over the past years. The first was in 2016, when Turkey and Syrian opposition fighters it backs attacked areas held by the Islamic State group west of the Euphrates River. Last year Turkey launched an attack on the Syrian Kurdish enclave of Afrin, leading to the displacement of some 300,000 people.

"We tell them that they have lost everything and must not lose themselves," Mekdad added.

Also Tuesday, Iran urged Turkey not to go ahead with its planned attack on Syrian Kurds, the Iranian state TV reported. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, to express Tehran's opposition to the anticipated Turkish operation.

Zarif urged Turkey to respect Syria's integrity and sovereignty, the report said.

Iran, Turkey and Russia have been working together as part of the so-called Astana group on the Syrian civil war, talks that have run parallel to UN efforts to find a solution to the conflict. Trump's announcement threw the military situation in Syria into fresh chaos and injected deeper uncertainty into the region.

US involvement in Syria has been fraught with peril since it started in 2014 with the insertion of small numbers of special operations forces to recruit, train, arm and advise local fighters to combat the Islamic State. Trump entered the White House in 2017 intent on getting out of Syria, and even before the counter-IS military campaign reclaimed the last militant strongholds early this year, he declared victory and said troops would leave.

In recent weeks, the US and Turkey had reached an apparent accommodation of Turkish concerns about the presence of Kurdish fighters, seen in Turkey as a threat. American and Turkish soldiers had been conducting joint patrols in a zone along the border. As part of that work, barriers designed to protect the Syrian Kurds were dismantled amid assurances that Turkey would not invade.

Bulent Aliriza, director of the Turkey Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that a US withdrawal from Syria would be a major boost to Russia's position there. He added that other allies in the region, including the Kurds, will "look at this withdrawal as US unwillingness to stand up for its rights and maintain its alliances in the region."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., another strong Trump supporter, said in an appearance on "Fox & Friends" that he had concerns.

"I want to make sure we keep our word for those who fight with us and help us," he said, adding that, "If you make a commitment and somebody is fighting with you, America should keep their word."

Former Trump administration officials also expressed concern.

Nikki Haley, who served as US ambassador to the United Nations, said the US "must always have the backs of our allies, if we expect them to have our back... Leaving them to die is a big mistake."

Turkey considers the People's Protection Units, or YPG, an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged an insurgency against Turkey for 35 years. (Times of Israel)

(13) Syrian Kurds ...

change and people from other regions coming in," a -32-year-old Kobane-based non-governmental organization (NGO) worker named Basheer told Fox News. "But, we expect a military liquidation against the Kurds, we expect (Turkey) to call all of us terrorists to destroy us." (Fox News)