

(1) Sidelined Bolton...

of sensitive discussions about the agreement," the newspaper noted. Irritating Trump has raised questions about how long Bolton will last.

"The sidelining of Bolton has raised questions about his influence in an administration that is seeking a troop withdrawal from Afghanistan as well as an ambitious nuclear deal with North Korea and potential engagement with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Bolton, US officials said, stands in opposition to those efforts but he does so increasingly from the periphery," The Post reported.

"At the zenith of his influence, Bolton enabled the president to act on his most aggressive instincts and outmaneuvered other Cabinet officials with less experience in the interagency process. But his tough management style and bellicose worldview have frayed relations with some colleagues." (Pajhwok)

(2) MoI Was Aware...

including the 217 Pamir Corps. "Kunduz was 'sold out' last time and this time as well. How is it possible that they [Taliban] enter the city of Kunduz while there is an army corps?" asked retired Army General Atiqullah Amarkhel.

Some members of Kunduz Provincial Council said "inattention" by relevant institutions has made Kunduz security prone to complex attacks by the Taliban.

"Local officials were aware of this attack and they should have taken preventive measures," said Mohammad Yusuf Ayubi, member of Kunduz Provincial Council.

Over 40,000 families were displaced in the two previous attacks on Kunduz, in which, the city fell to the Taliban for a few days.

"Ali Abad district is located near the main road but only the center of the district is under government's control. Chahar Dara district is also under Taliban's influence same as Khan Abad and Archi districts," former Nangarhar governor Salim Kunduzi said. (Tolo news)

(3) Samangan's ...

reaped 4.45 tons of wheat and the same land produced 9.8 tons this year. There are also reports of bumper wheat production in other provinces of the country. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghan Forces ...

be heard in four areas of the city but by mid-morning most cellphone coverage had been cut.

- 'Peace opportunity' -

The attack comes as US and Taliban negotiators continue a ninth round of talks in Doha. Western diplomats had widely expected an announcement to have been reached by now, but progress appears to have slowed in recent days.

On Thursday, a US commando was killed in the southern province of Zabul, marking at least the 15th American combat death in Afghanistan this year.

The Taliban attack shows they "don't believe in the peace opportunity provided by the US and the government of Afghanistan", Ghani spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Twitter.

"On the one hand they are talking with the US, on the other hand they are attacking people's houses and villages. We will not leave their attack unanswered."

In late September 2015, the Taliban attacked Kunduz, overwhelming local forces and briefly seizing the city. It was only through extensive US air support that the Taliban were repelled.

The event garnered particular global attention after a US gunship struck a hospital run by Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), killing dozens of patients and staff.

The fall of Kunduz also underscored the vulnerability of Afghan security forces and played a role in stopping the pull-out of US forces under president Barack Obama.

Since then, the city has come under frequent Taliban attack but the insurgents have not been able to repeat a full capture. (AFP)

(5) Lavrov Discusses ...

a press conference held after talks with his Indian counterpart, Subrah-

manyam Jaishankar.

Lavrov also commented on US President Donald Trump's call on Russia and other regional powers, including India, to step up the fight against Daesh in Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(6) Pakistani Army...

on the omission policy and reject the involvement policy. They want to destroy an open environment and would like a close government system," he stated.

At the same event, President Ghani said that he will not accept any deal over security forces for the sake of peace.

"Afghan security forces have always defended our country. I would like to clarify one thing that there will be no deal over Afghan security forces in peace talks," Ghani said. (ATN)

(7) Presidential ...

"The nation will even accept an emirate but they will not accept compromise on the fate of the people," he said.

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, who is running for president for the third time, said at a campaign gathering in Kabul that the election should be held transparent.

"We do not want the continuation of war for remaining in power," Mr. Abdullah said.

Presidential candidate Abdul Latif Pedram, who is a former MP, said among his supporters in Kabul that he will bring fundamental reforms in governance if he wins. (Tolo news)

(8) Thousands Protest...

the time that lawmakers will have to debate before Britain leaves the EU at the end of October.

Opposition lawmakers want to prevent the shutdown of parliament and pass legislation to avoid a no-deal Brexit when they return from summer recess on Tuesday.

As well as London, protests were scheduled in other major cities in the four nations of the United Kingdom, comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

About 100 people protested outside the city hall in Belfast, the capital of the Northern Ireland, which has become a particular focus in the Brexit negotiations as it has the United Kingdom's only land border with the European Union.

The "backstop" insurance policy, part of the withdrawal agreement negotiated between the EU and Britain's former prime minister and which aims to keep the border with Ireland open, has become the main sticking point in negotiations.

Johnson wants the backstop removed, saying it could leave Northern Ireland operating under different regulatory rules than the rest of the United Kingdom. The EU and Ireland say Britain has yet to come up with acceptable alternatives.

A court case being heard in Belfast next week aims to block Johnson's suspension of parliament on the grounds that a no-deal Brexit would breach the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to the British-run province of Northern Ireland.

Protesters said the government had failed to take into account the importance of the border issue.

"The thing that scares me most is they have no appreciation of what is important for Northern Ireland. We are not on their radar," said Graham Glendinning, 49, a software worker.

"The border means nothing to them and they don't give two hoots about it." (Reuters)

(9) North Korea...

"We are very curious about the background of the American top diplomat's thoughtless remarks and we will watch what calculations he has," she said. "The U.S. had better not put any longer our patience to the test with such remarks irritating us if it doesn't want to have bitter regrets afterward."

In a speech to U.S. veterans in Indiana on Tuesday, Pompeo said the Trump administration recognized that "North Korea's rogue behavior could not be ignored" while touting its approach in foreign policy.

"Americanism - it means telling the truth about the challenges we face," he said. "Look, this administration didn't pretend that the Islamic Republic of Iran was a responsible actor in the Middle East. We called out China's bad behavior on trade and on national se-

curity. We recognized - we recognized that North Korea's rogue behavior could not be ignored."

Nuclear negotiations have been at a standstill since a February summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam collapsed after the U.S. side rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Since the breakdown in Hanoi, North Korea has repeatedly demanded that Washington remove Pompeo from the nuclear negotiations, accusing him of maintaining a hard-line stance on sanctions and distorting Pyongyang's statements, while avoiding direct criticism of Trump. (Fox News)

(10) 'Good Morning...

Twitter intervention has only muddied the waters regarding the failure, launching speculation that it could have been an act of sabotage, rather than technical failure.

The US has long been suspicious about Iran's space efforts, claiming that it could boost its ballistic missile technology.

The current US-Iran spat dates back to May 2018, when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal signed by Tehran and six world powers. Later on, he brought back sweeping economic and financial sanctions, targeting Iran's oil trade and key industries.

Tehran responded by suspending some commitments set out in the deal. The crisis saw an Iranian tanker briefly seized in Gibraltar, and another captured by Iran in response. (RT)

(11) 'Anti-Semitic...

of three Israeli teenagers, who had been killed by Hamas militants before Khdeir's kidnapping, sparking riots and Israel's war on Gaza in 2014.

Netanyahu was criticized at the time for using the Jewish boy's deaths as a pretext to carry out raids and arrest hundreds of Palestinians, and for the subsequent assault on Gaza, which saw 1,462 Palestinian civilians, including 551 children, killed by the Israel Defense Forces. The assault also destroyed much of Gaza's infrastructure and homes, with over 6,000 air strikes in 50 days.

"We were drawn to understanding the perpetrators of this murder more than we were interested in understanding the victimhood of our side," Hagai Levi, one of the filmmakers, told Drama Quarterly about the motivation for the show.

Netanyahu is no fan of Channel 12 and said he was "used to them blackmailing me on a daily basis." On Friday the High Court rejected a petition by his Likud party to stop the channel from publishing matters about corruption cases against him.

Families of victims of terrorism in Israel have also written a letter criticizing the series, saying it gave the wrong impression of Israelis. "The balance is not clear to someone viewing the show, who thinks 'we murder them, they murder us'," Merav Hajaj, whose daughter, a soldier, was killed in a Palestinian car-ramming incident in 2017, told Reuters.

The Netanyahu government arguably tainted its own reputation internationally for its treatment of Palestinian protesters at the Great Return March demonstrations over the last 17 months, in which over 200 Palestinians, including medics and journalists, have been killed by Israeli forces. (RT)

(12) Saudi Arabia...

with a lack of results during Falih's tenure. The separation followed meetings between those businessmen and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto ruler, one source added.

Industry and mining are critical to the young crown prince's push to diversify the economy of the world's top oil exporter away from crude, cut bloated state spending and create millions of jobs for young Saudis.

Saudi economist Fawaz al-Fawaz said the split was a step in the right direction but still not enough. "There are scattered efforts in local content and military manufacturing and a constant lack of investment. We need more thought," he said on Twitter.

In a separate royal order, Fahd bin Mohammed al-Essa was appointed head of the royal court, a powerful gatekeeper

position in the absolute monarchy. Essa was formerly the head of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's office at the defence ministry.

Former information minister Awwad al-Awwad was named new head of the official human rights commission, and Mazen al-Khamous was made chairman of the national anti-corruption commission, according to the orders. Riyadh launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign two years ago which netted princes, senior officials and top businessmen. Critics said the campaign amounted to a power play and shake-down of political rivals.

The kingdom has also come in for international censure over alleged human rights abuses, including the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and the arrests of scores of dissidents including prominent women's rights activists. One change announced on Friday affected one of the most senior women in government. Deputy labor minister Tamadur al-Ramah was replaced as Riyadh struggles to create jobs for its overwhelmingly young population. (Reuters)

(13) Merkel Hints...

losing a lot of support to the far right in elections in two eastern German states on Sunday, potentially putting further strain on the coalition.

Merkel stepped down as leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party last year after painful losses in state elections and said her current term would be her last. (Reuters)

(14) Kazakhstan and...

The Kazakhstan-Russia border is the 6,846 kilometers long international border between the Kazakhstan and the Russia. It is the longest continuous international border in the world, and the second longest by total length (after the Canada-United States border). It is in the same location as formerly the administrative-territorial border between the Kazakh SSR and Russian SFSR.

The border assumed its modern shape in 1930, and became an international border upon the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. (Trend)

(15) Hong Kong ...

then marched on foot toward the neighboring Admiralty district, followed by 20 police cars, where protesters had thrown fire bombs from flyovers, some landing close to police. Others shone blue and green lasers at police lines.

There were unconfirmed reports of an off-duty policeman being wounded.

In the Wanchai bar and restaurant district, police fought running battles with protesters, beating them with truncheons. There were several arrests. The protests, which at one point blocked three key roads, came on the fifth anniversary of a decision by China to curtail democratic reforms and rule out universal suffrage in Hong Kong, a former British colony that was returned to China in 1997.

"The government today said rashly embarking on political reform again will further polarize society, which is an irresponsible act," the government news.gov.hk website said.

"It noted any discussions on constitutional development have to be premised on the legal basis, and be conducted under a peaceful atmosphere with mutual trust in a pragmatic manner."

The People's Liberation Army on Thursday rotated its troops in Hong Kong in what it said was a routine operation. Their Hong Kong HQ was the former base of the British military garrison.

Thousands took to the streets of the Asian financial hub for a largely peaceful, meandering rally in the afternoon rain. Many of them joined a "Christian march" from Wanchai and congregating next to the Legislative Council, stormed by activists in an earlier protest.

Other protesters, many wearing black and face masks, marched in the Causeway Bay shopping district. The crowds grew after dusk in Wanchai, where demonstrators built roadblocks and banged iron sticks. Firemen battled a huge blaze outside a Methodist church in the main Hennessy Road where water cannon moved in.

There were also standoffs in North Point and Fortress Hill, to the east of Causeway Bay, and tear gas was fired against protesters over the harbor in

Tsim Sha Tsui. (Reuters)

(16) Thousands of...

compromise, they have started dispersing people, throwing them in jail. I think this is unacceptable."

Saturday's protest, the last before the vote, was smaller than some of the previous ones attended by tens of thousands of people. During the first hour of the rally, police made no attempt to detain protesters but asked them through loudspeakers to disperse. (Reuters)

(17) Iran Official...

its ballistic missile program and end its support for proxy forces around the Middle East.

Araqchi said Iran and its European partners in the nuclear deal faced "difficult and complex" talks towards salvaging the pact. He said Tehran was determined to continue reducing its commitments under the accord until it received protection against sanctions on its oil sales and banking transactions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani urged his people on Wednesday to unite to overcome Washington's "economic war" while his government said it would use diplomacy to try to solve the standoff even though it distrusted Trump. (Reuters)

(18) Pakistan Ready...

the Kashmiri leadership and hold consultations.

"I will have to assess their (Kashmiri leaders') emotions. [We] cannot come to the table for talks by trampling the sentiments of Kashmiris."

Ruling out war, the foreign minister stressed that Pakistan has never adopted an aggressive policy and always prioritised peace. "(A war) will cause loss of people and the world will be affected by it, so war is not an option," he said.

He added, however, that the armed forces and people of Pakistan are ready if war is "imposed" on Pakistan like on February 26 earlier this year.

On August 5, the Hindu nationalist government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stripped Kashmiris of the special autonomy they had for seven decades through a rushed presidential order. An indefinite curfew was imposed in occupied Kashmir and elected leaders were put under house arrest. The clampdown is now on its 27th day.

Pakistan angrily slammed New Delhi's moves, expelling India's ambassador, suspending bilateral trade, and taking the matter to the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Minister Qureshi's latest comments echo that of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who wrote in an op-ed for The New York Times on Friday that dialogue with India can start only when it reverses its "illegal annexation of Kashmir, ends the curfew and lockdown, and withdraws its troops to the barracks". (Agencies)

(19) Uzbekcosmos Space...

design and innovative work;

- assistance to state bodies in increasing the efficiency of solving problems through the use of stratospheric and other unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as spacecraft for remote sensing of the earth and satellite communications;

- attracting foreign investment and advanced technologies in the field of space activities, including on public-private partnership.

Decision-making on strategic issues in the development of the space industry will be based on the conclusions of the Scientific, Technical and Expert Council of Uzbekcosmos Agency. It will include representatives of the ministries for the development of information technology and communications, defense, innovative development, etc.

The decree also approved the Roadmap for the development of the space industry in Uzbekistan for 2019-2020. Until November 1, it is planned to develop a draft law "On Space Activities", and before July 1, 2020 - a draft State Program for the Development of the Space Industry in Uzbekistan for 2020-2030.

The program should include issues such as the construction of space industry facilities and related infrastructure, as well as the training of specialists in universities and training centers in the field of space research and technology. (Trend)