

(1) Full US Pullout...

the country as a springboard for new attacks.

Trump has made clear his impatience to withdraw all U.S. forces and end America's longest war, which began with a U.S. invasion triggered by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that al Qaeda launched from then Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

Khalilzad said Trump must approve the draft before it can be signed.

Khalilzad excluded Kabul from the nine rounds of U.S.-Taliban talks in Qatar. But he has said it would be part of negotiations on a political settlement with the Taliban, which has so far refused to meet directly with Afghan officials.

Maintaining a major U.S. troop presence would have "a critical influence on the chances for successful peace negotiations," the former diplomats wrote.

"It is not clear whether peace is possible. The Taliban have made no clear statements about the conditions they would accept for a peaceful settlement with their fellow Afghans, nor do they have a track record of working with other political forces," they said.

"There is an outcome far worse than the status quo, namely a return to the total civil war that consumed Afghanistan as badly as the war with the Russians and something that could follow a breakdown in negotiations if we remove too much support from the Afghan state, they wrote.

A new civil war "could prove catastrophic for U.S. national security" as it likely would see the Taliban maintain their alliance with al Qaeda and allow Islamic State's growing local affiliate "to further expand, they said. (Reuters)

(2) 2 New Gas ...

province with Nargis Nehan on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony.

The governor said at least 450 workers and engineers of the mines department had been dismissed by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and they were now in difficult situation.

He said besides gas Jawzjan had rich cement deposits of high quality and needed some investment.

Narhis Nehan promised to address the workers' problems at the easiest possible. Eng. Mohammad Ayub Newand, director of pipelines for the Afghan Gas Industry department, said the newly inaugurated gas wells could generate 240,000 cubic meters of gas per day. (Pajhwok)

(3) China Hands ...

actively supports Afghanistan in peace and reconstruction process. He termed the postal cooperation between the two countries as significant, "packets and letters are bridges to convey friendship and exchange the feelings of the two nations", Wais said. He identified the role of China in the Afghan peace process as crucial; "China has changed to a significant neighbor to Afghanistan", Wais said. (Daily Outlook Afghanistan)

(4) Economic ...

(UNESCAP), on Wednesday called on countries in the region to decisively accelerate the transition to low carbon.

She asked nations to stop building coal power plants by 2020, reiterating a key message by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

According to the climate science and policy institute Climate Analytics, plans for major new coal deployment in South and Southeast Asia alone could put the key objectives of the Paris Climate Change Agreement out of reach.

UNESCAP chief Alisjahbana underscored that the economic argument to shift to sustainable economies is compelling. For example, just a one per cent improvement in resource efficiency of material resources and energy combined could deliver the region up to USD 275 billion in savings.

And according to Ms. Alisjahbana, achieving ecosystem conservation related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals could result in a gain of USD 3.3 trillion worth of ecosystem services per year for the region by 2050.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Ovais Sarmad, warned that current levels of ambition to tackle climate change are globally insufficient, and that nothing less than a full transformation of the global economy toward low carbon would enable the world to stave off the worst impacts of climate change.

"It is clear we must urgently boost climate action. Current Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by nations under the Paris Agreement put us on pace for a 3 degrees Celsius rise, and possibly more," Ovais Sarmad said.

Countries are currently designing climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, which need to be communicated by the end of 2020. Countries and many stakeholders have been asked to come forward with plans for more ambitious

climate action at the UN Climate Summit in September. In this regard, Ovais Sarmad sounded an encouraging note:

"We still have time – although not much time – to turn things around. Never have we been better placed to do so. We have a global framework through the Paris Agreement. We have reinforced that Agreement with a common set of guidelines. And we have the willingness and stated participation of governments and businesses throughout the world."

Other speakers at the high-level opening included UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, Polish COP24 Presidency High-Level Climate Champion Tomasz Chruszczow, and the Director General for the Melanesian Spearhead Group Ambassador Amana Yauvoli. Asia-Pacific youth were represented by Thai youth activist Punyapha Visavakornvisid. (PR)

(5) Romanian ...

began last night. It was a sustained attack, with bomb cars, with all the devices, as the Taliban terrorists are used to act," she pointed out and described the attack as an "assault."

"After they attacked the main building where our colleagues were, they set fire on annex buildings. The place cannot be used anymore," Manescu detailed. The Minister said the team of Romania's Embassy in Kabul was made up of 12 people. At the same time, Manescu said the injured Romanian is "outside any danger, in a stable condition."

The Foreign Minister added that, in this situation, the representatives of the Romanian diplomatic mission collaborated with the Romanian Defence Ministry. "We are in contact with the colleagues of Defence. It is with them that we also made the evacuation to the NATO base and we'll probably also make the transfer of our colleagues back home," she explained.

Romania is member NATO Resolute Support (RS) mission and it has 700 soldiers in Afghanistan currently. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghanistan National ...

from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Action Task Force and will support Afghanistan's efforts to mitigate risks of diversion of financial resources from money laundering and terrorist financing. (Pajhwok)

(7) Artists Paint Murals...

The first explosion happened at around 6pm Kabul time, targeting a wrestling gym in Qala-e-Nazer area in Kabul's PD6.

The first explosion was a suicide bombing while the second explosion was a car bombing that according to officials left at least 16 people dead and 65 others wounded.

Farmarz had been reporting live from the scene of the first explosion on TOLNews 6pm bulletin - just minutes before the explosion happened.

Farmarz started working at TOLNews three years ago. Despite his activities in culture, he continued with making dozens of reports on corruption, security situation, political issues, electoral issues, suicide attacks in Kabul and other parts of the country, and documentaries.

He was 28 and was an exceptional person among his colleagues with a smiling face and a kind heart. The last post on his Facebook is about his work as a reporter. Ramiz Ahmadi, like Farmarz, was leading in his profession as a cameraman at TOLNews. He pictured many reports from war-hit areas in the country.

He worked for TOLNews for four years and besides that he was a law student at a private university in Kabul.

Ahmadi was 23 years old and was always trying to support his family besides continuing his education. (Tolo news)

(8) Kabul Voices ...

violence in the country, he said.

The main concern of the Afghan government regarding the US-Taliban peace deal, however, was how to prevent and address its latent threats, risks and implications, he said.

The 9th round of talks between US and Taliban representatives ended without any final deal in Qatari capital of Doha last week. (Pajhwok)

(9) Special Forces ...

The main highway which connects Kabul with northern provinces passes through Pul-e-Khumri but it is closed to traffic due to the clashes over the past four days. (Tolo news)

(10) Bangladesh Eyes ...

Australia picked four pacers and no spinners," he said. "We'll do what it takes to win us the game."

With both teams possessing quality spinners, Shakib said the batsmen will prove decisive.

"Our spinners have been doing well and they have also quality spinners," he said. "I feel the batting of both teams will make the difference."

Skipper Rashid Khan leads an Afghan spin attack including off spinner Mohammad Nabi, left arm spinner Zahir Khan and leg spinner Qais Ahmed.

Zahir took 5-24 in a practice game while Qais had previously tormented the Bangladesh 'A' batsmen.

Afghanistan is approaching the match with modest expectations.

"We are new in this format and we cannot be expected to beat Australia in our third or fourth game," Rashid said. "I think over time we will get better, like we saw Bangladesh beating Australia. Once we get everything right, we can beat other teams." (AP)

(11) Ex-ALP Leader...

He added nine members of commander Shakor had been killed after militants attacked his home. He urged the government and Taliban to stop and renounce conflict and establish peace in the country.

When Pajhwok shared the story of commander Shakor with Governor Mujeeb Rahman Chamkani, he went to his home and met Shakor.

Governor Mujeeb assisted Shakor with food and non-food items and promised all-out cooperation with Shakor's family from government side. (Pajhwok)

(12) Pope Makes...

pope's visit," he said, referring to John Paul's historic 1988 trip. "Now there are the same expectations that this pope will bring a positive influence, reconciliation between all Mozambicans. Those are the hopes of so many people here."

Francis will also reach out to Mozambicans affected by back-to-back cyclones that ripped into the country earlier this year, leaving more than 650 people dead and destroying vast swaths of crops on the eve of harvest.

The unprecedented storms laid bare the impact of climate change on countries like Mozambique, which with its 2,400-kilometer (1,500-mile) coastline is one of the world's most vulnerable to the rising sea levels, warming waters and unpredictable storms blamed on global warming.

Francis has made environmental concerns a pillar of his papacy, linking global warming to the persistent exploitation of the world's poor by the wealthy.

He is likely to raise those concerns in Mozambique, as well as on the second leg of his trip in Madagascar, where deforestation is threatening ecosystems and wildlife that are unique to the Indian Ocean island nation.

Francis also makes a daylong stop in Mauritius before returning to Rome Sept. 10. (AP)

(13) Huawei Accuses...

networks. Germany, France and Ireland say they have no plans to ban any supplier.

Huawei, headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen, gave no evidence to support its accusations. A company spokesman said he had no additional details.

The accusations were included in a statement about an unrelated patent dispute in the United States.

The American Embassy in Beijing didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The statement said American authorities launched cyberattacks "to infiltrate Huawei's intranet and internal information systems" but gave no indication what information they targeted or whether they succeeded.

Huawei also said FBI agents pressured its employees to collect information on the company.

The Reuters news agency cited a Huawei document it said reported eight employees, all mid- to high-level executives, including several U.S. citizens, were involved in the incidents. It said the latest occurred Aug. 28 when an employee informed Huawei the FBI asked the person to be an informant.

The company said U.S. authorities have disrupted Huawei's business by delaying shipments, denying visas and unspecified intimidation.

China's government has accused Washington of improperly using national security arguments to hurt Chinese commercial competitors.

"This kind of behavior is neither glorious nor moral," a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Wednesday. He called on Washington to "stop deliberately smearing" Chinese companies and to "provide a level playing field" for them. (AP)

(14) Jailed Russian...

parent's apartment, eventually breaking down the door. He was taken to the investigators as a witness in the rioting case but after a brief conversation with the investigator he was named a suspect and shipped off to the detention center. In the notorious Matrosskaya Tishina prison, where tax lawyer Sergei Mag-

nitsky died a decade ago after being denied medical help, Abanichev was interrogated about his role in the protests. The investigator pressured him to confess, saying he had been captured in multiple acts on CCTV footage.

The only specific piece of evidence he was presented was a video showing what the investigators said was him hurling a beer can at the police. Abanichev said it was an empty paper cup from Burger King that he threw away during the commotion.

"By saying 'We know everything, we have tons of video, tons of evidence' they probably expected me to take the blame," he said. "I had nothing to confess, I said it right away."

Analysts have suggested that the sweeping criminal investigation against a random group of protesters is meant to scare off people from going to opposition rallies.

Protests started in mid-July after election officials barred a dozen opposition candidates from running for the Moscow city legislature, and kept on growing. Authorities originally allowed the rallies to go unhindered but later outlawed the gatherings and started detaining and beating the demonstrators, which only helped to swell the crowds.

On July 27, thousands thronged the area around Moscow's main drag where authorities deployed a formidable riot police force. Officers were seen detaining and often beating men and women alike. In frustration, some bystanders hurled plastic bottles at police, and some tried to force their way past police lines.

While authorities dropped the charges against Abanichev and four others Tuesday, the courts also sentenced two men to three and two years in prison, respectively, for using force against police in an expedited hearing following the plea bargains. Another man was sentenced to three years in prison on Wednesday.

Two other suspects were released under house arrest, and five more people are still charged with rioting and are in custody. Separately, another man was convicted of inciting hatred and threatening violence and sentenced to five years in prison for a tweet threatening the children of riot policemen who beat up the protesters.

In jail, Abanichev shared his first cell with a repeated convict, joking as he sat in his parents' cozy living room surrounded by friends and family, the man "had no room left on his body for more tattoos." (AP)

(15) Pence Defends...

footprint that comes with our security detail and other personnel, made it logical."

Trump, who owns hotels and golf clubs across the U.S. and in Europe, has come under intense criticism for frequenting properties he owns and profits from – giving them taxpayer-funded publicity and running up millions of dollars in taxpayer costs. Foreign governments and groups looking to curry favor with the president have also spent large sums at his properties, raising ethical alarms about potential pay-to-play dynamics and other conflicts.

Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, told reporters aboard Air Force Two earlier that the decision to stay at the Trump property was made at the president's "suggestion" and that Pence and his entourage were not staying for free. Short said Pence's office followed official protocol and the club is the "one facility" in the Doonbeg area able to accommodate a group of their size.

Pence, who is traveling with his wife, mother and sister, had originally planned to visit the village at the end of a trip to Europe, spending a single night in the village after visits to Iceland, London and Dublin. But then Trump canceled his planned visit to Poland because of Hurricane Dorian, and asked Pence to take his place. That forced last-minute reshuffling of travel plans.

Instead of making two separate trips to Europe or canceling Pence's trip, his staff switched around the stops, so that he traveled from Poland to Ireland to Iceland to London. Under the new schedule, Pence is staying stay two nights in Doonbeg, but flew the hour-or-so into Dublin on Tuesday for official meetings, including coffee with Irish President Michael Higgins and lunch with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and his partner. Short said advance teams and Secret Service had already done weeks of planning work to secure the site, one reason they decided to keep the Doonbeg plan in place.

The decision drew criticism back home. Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu of California accused Pence of "funneling taxpayer money to @POTUS by staying at this Trump resort," calling the move "soooooo corrupt." "Your tax dollars: making the Trump family richer," the Democratic National Committee added by tweet, noting

Trump's own visits to his Virginia golf club over the long weekend.

The Air Force puts the flight-cost of a C-32, the modified Boeing 757 jet known as Air Force Two when Pence is on board, at about \$13,000 per hour. The vice president is personally covering all costs for his mother and sister, Short said.

Pence said he was pleased to have the opportunity to return to the village where he worked for several weeks during his first visit to Ireland when he was 22. He was greeted by a cheering crowd of several dozen outside Morrissey's, the restaurant and pub where he worked, which is still run by a distant relative.

His mother, Nancy, who is along for the ride, seemed to enjoy the scene. Asked what the vice president would order for dinner, she jokingly responded, "a Guinness." Pence does not drink. (AP)

(16) Russia, OPEC...

with our colleagues, with my friend Mr. Falih," Novak told reporters. He said he planned to visit Saudi Arabia to prepare for Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip there scheduled in October.

Ties between OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC Russia have developed since 2016 after the producer group and a number of non-member countries formed the so-called OPEC+ alliance.

Oil has risen 9% this year since a new OPEC+ supply pact took effect, despite concerns about slowing economic growth.

Kirill Dmitriev, head of the RDIF sovereign wealth fund and a key player in cooperation between Moscow and Riyadh, also praised work with Falih and said plans remained unchanged.

"Saudi Arabia is an absolutely key partner for us. Khalid al-Falih ... has played an absolutely key role in stabilizing global oil markets," he said.

"We plan to make joint investments with Aramco in Russia ... Plans which we had remain."

RDIF has partnerships with Saudi Arabia's two sovereign wealth funds: the Public Investment Fund (PIF) and the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA). (Reuters)

(17) Italian PM...

unworkable and calling for early elections in the hope that Salvini could return to power a prime minister.

Salvini's gambit backfired badly, ushering in a new alliance that is expected to soften his confrontational stance on EU budget rules, which he blamed for Italy's weak economy, and his crackdown on migrants arriving by boat from Africa.

Once Mattarella agrees to Conte's cabinet, the prime minister will then have to win confidence votes in both houses of parliament before the government can officially start work.

5-Star and PD unveiled on Tuesday a shared, 26-point policy program for their mooted coalition, putting an expansionary 2020 budget at the top of their agenda but pleasing markets with a pledge draft a budget that would not endanger public finances.

The coalition cleared its final hurdle on Tuesday night when members of 5-Star approved the marriage in an online vote. The key post of economy minister is very likely to go to the PD's Roberto Gualtieri, now head of the European Parliament's economic affairs commission, political sources said.

5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio, who served as deputy prime minister, industry minister and labor minister in the previous administration, may become foreign minister in the new government, Pd and 5-Star sources said. (Reuters)

(18) Iran to Release...

citizens, were allowed to leave the tanker on humanitarian grounds and could leave Iran soon.

"We have no problem with the crew and the captain and the issue is violations that the vessel committed," Mousavi said.

The Stena Impero's 23 seafarers are of Indian, Russian, Latvian and Filipino nationality, the vessel's Swedish owner Stena Bulk has said.

"We are very pleased that for seven crew members their ordeal may soon be over, and they may return to their families, however we cautiously await official confirmation of their release date," Erik Hanel, Stena Bulk's president and chief executive, said in a statement.

"We view this communication as a positive step on the way to the release of all the remaining crew, which has always been our primary concern and focus."

The company said the remaining 16 crew members would remain onboard to safely operate the vessel. (Reuters)

(19) 'We Share Love...

known for steering the nation's efforts to protect the Siberian tiger, which in recent years was brought back from the brink of extinction. Modi has also been lauded for programs aimed at increasing India's tiger population. (RT)