spent $19 billion in Afghani-year, the United States has for the first quarter of this 2016 and 2018, amounting to dropped sharply, between 2010 and 2011, there were between 103,000 and 110,000 US soldiers and instructors in the country, but in 2010 there were just over 8,600 and then will determine further drawdowns. Trump's comment came as a U.S. envoys continued talks with the Taliban to try to find a resolution to the nearly 18-year war. The president said the U.S. was "getting close" to making a deal, but that the outcome was uncertain. "Who knows if it's going to happen?" Trump told Fox News Radio's "The Brit Hume Show." No timeline Trump did not offer a timeline for withdrawing troops. The Pentagon has been developing plans to withdraw 5,400 as well as half of the 14,000 U.S. troops still there, but the Taliban want all U.S. and NATO forces withdrawn. "We're going down to 8,400 and then we'll make a determination from there," Trump said, adding that the U.S. would have a "high intelligence" presence in Afghanistan going forward. Trump has called Afghanistan — where the Taliban harbored members of the al-Qaeda network responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States — the "Havana University of terror." It is one of the most talked-about America now, and Trump is the president the U.S. will keep a "presence" in the country. The U.S. has spent billions of dollars since 2001, when U.S. troops entered Afghanistan for what is known as the "war on terror" following the September 11 attacks. The end of U.S. military presence in the country may already be seen if the ongoing negotiations in Doha between the United States and Taliban representatives are successful. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has declared that the war "costs the United States government and the public $500 billion," the BBC quoted him as saying. Currently, there are just over 16,000 US soldiers and instructors in the country, but in 2010 and 2011, there were between 103,000 and 110,000 US fighters in the Asian country that had previously fielded two other empires — the British and Soviet ones. In just 2 years, from 2010 to 2012, the war in Afghanistan was worth $100 billion a year to America, according to Washington. Subsequently, the Americans changed their strategy, replacing the offensive with training for the Afghan army and law enforcement. Thus, elections dropped sharply, between 2016 and 2018, amounting to about 50% in 2018. For the first quarter of this year, the United States has spent $19 billion in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

For The First Quarter of 2019 the US Has Spent $19 Billion in Afghanistan

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Bass Criticises Taliban Over Destroying Civilian Infrastructure

US Ambassador John Bass on Thursday criticised the Taliban over destroying telecom and other infrastructures at a time when peace talks are underway. The top US diplomat tweeted: “Taliban say they want peace and that we are close to a deal that promotes a settlement, but at the same time they are destroying telecom and other infrastructure Afghans depend on.” He said: “Should we and Afghans pay attention to what they say, or what they do? It is long past the time we pay attention to what they say, or what they do.”

Moscow Ready to 3rd Party Role in US-Taliban Deal

KABUL - Russia is ready to play the role of witness or guarantor of peace process between the US and Taliban if requested, a state media reporting. “The Russian side is ready to be the third party at the signing or a guarantor of how the deal between the United States and the Taliban movement is implemented,” the TASS news agency quoted ministry spokesman Maria Zakharova as saying. The 9th round of talks with Taliban ongoing as both sides said they were moving closer to a deal. Talks over how to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan have been held in Doha, capitals of Qatar, since late last year. (More on P4)

IEC Begins Transfer of Election Materials to Provinces

According to IEC figures, 7,850 polling centers were initially considered by the institution, but 5,375 centers will remain open on the election day. Kabul will have 358 open polling centers and only two polling centers will be closed in the province. Almost 300 polling centers out of 462 will remain empty. It is in a province in the west of the country. Other provinces in the west such as Balochistan, Chahar and Farsah will have the highest number of closed polling centers with 16, 111, 174 closed centers respectively. Ghizer province will have the highest number of closed centers – 159 out of 466 – in the center of Afghanistan, the figures show. People, a secure province in the center of the country, will have only one closed center out of 48 centers while all 33 polling centers will be open on the election day in Bamyan province, data indicate. Helmand with 162 closed centers out of 462 will have the highest number of closed centers on the election day in the south of the country. (Tolo news)