Taliban Wants Japan to Serve as a Guarantor in US Troop Pullout

Taliban says a possible peace deal will be 'impossible' after the US begins pulling its forces out of Afghanistan, Japan's publications reported on Friday.

KABUL - Amid the acceleration of efforts for ending the Afghan war and pushing forward a peaceful settlement, Taliban has said that European and Asian countries should guarantee the implementation of a possible peace deal between the group and the United States.

Talking to Japan's Mainichi Shimbun newspaper, Shah Mohammadi Albidh Stankazi, deputy head of Taliban's political office in Qatar and the head of Taliban's negotiating team with the US, has said that the group wants Japan, among other European and Asian guarantors, to serve as a guarantor to make sure the US will withdraw its forces from Afghanistan after a deal reached between the Taliban and the United States.

"According to the draft in which we are going to agree (on, the draft) .. and agreement will be signed, and announced in front of the guarantees. I hope most famous Asian and European countries will be guarantors. That will be decided in all sides (though) not decided yet, Japan is (an) important country, it may be there (as a candidate)," Stankazi said as quoted by Mainichi Shimbun.

Talking to reporters in Delta on July 30, Stankazi said that agreements between the two sides have ended and a draft agreement will be signed in the near future.

"We do not have any disagreement with Americans," Stankazi said. "Only there is the draft (agreement) which needs to be finalized. When it is finalized, we will share it with media," Stankazi said.

Critics said that Afghanis expect a responsible withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. "Terrorist forces withdrawn from Afghanistan will take three to four years," Dastur Naderi, head of Afghanistan Institute of Peace, told TOLOnews on Friday, July 12. "It means during this period we will share it with media," Stankazi said.

A three-day international symposium was started in Beijing emphasizing the importance of the trilateral consensus on the Afghan peace process reached in Moscow on April 25, 2019. All sides welcomed recent positive progress as the crucial parties concerned have advanced their talks and increased contacts with each other. All sides also welcomed intra-Afghan negotiations held in Moscow and Doha. The four sides called for relevant parties to grasp the opportunity for peace and immediately start intra-Afghan negotiations between the Taliban, Afghanistan government, other Afghans. They re-affirmed that negotiations should be “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” and further. (More on Pk. 25)

Experts Discuss Ways to Protect Historic Relics at Mes Ainak

BEIJING - The three sides joined by Pakistan during their third consultation meeting in Beijing emphasized the importance of the trilateral consensus on the Afghan peace process reached in Moscow on April 25, 2019. All sides welcomed recent positive progress as the crucial parties concerned have advanced their talks and increased contacts with each other. All sides also welcomed intra-Afghan negotiations held in Moscow and Doha. The four sides called for relevant parties to grasp the opportunity for peace and immediately start intra-Afghan negotiations between the Taliban, Afghanistan government, other Afghans. They re-affirmed that negotiations should be “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” and further. (More on Pk. 25)

Experts Discuss Ways to Protect Historic Relics at Mes Ainak

Experts discussed the process of protecting the historical relics over the next months.

On how to protect the historical relics and explore the copper reserves in the area, the minister of Mines and Petroleum and Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs, in which national and international experts are participating, acting mines and Petroleum Minister Nargis Nehan said: “We have started evaluating the copper mine contract since the past one and a half years. The problems in this regard have been divided and solutions for each problem have been suggested.”

The ministry of mines in coordination with the ministry of cultural affairs has been conducting studies on how to ensure the protection of historical sites and start the exploration of copper,” she said.

“After we reached three solutions, the protection of historical sites and underground digging in areas where historic sites exist, transfer of some historic monu-
ments to another place and finally the transfer of all historical sites in order to pave the way for exploration of copper,” said Nehan. (More on Pk. 25)

ILAMABAD - Pakistan and Afghanistan on Friday resumed talks to iron out differences in the way of transit treaty after a three-year hiatus.

Talks between the two neighbours had collapsed in September 2015 after Kabul insisted on including India in transit treaty negotiations and the trilateral trade agreement involving Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. (More on Pk. 26)

Turkey Delivers $4.5M Military Aid to Afghanistan

ANKARA - Turkey has delivered military aid worth 4.5 million dollars to Afghanistan, as part of the bilateral agreement, the Turkish Embassy said in a statement on Saturday.

According to the Turkish Embassy in Kabul, this aid will support logistical operations of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. It said the aid was part of the bilateral agreement inked on Sept. 25, 2018. (More on Pk. 26)

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SHIBERGHAN - Nearly 90 Taliban militants suffered casualties during separate clashes with security forces in northern Jawzjan province, an official and an army source said.

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