

Russia in Talks with Turkmenistan to Resume Gas Purchases

ASHGABAT - Russia is conducting substantive negotiations with Turkmenistan on the resumption of gas purchases, Head of Russia's holding Gazprom Alexey Miller said in an interview with the Turkmenistan State News Agency.

Turkmenistan, which has the richest gas reserves, is Russia's traditional partner in the energy sector.

Miller said that an intergovernmental agreement between the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan on co-operation in the gas sector until 2028 and a signed contract with the similar term are currently in force.

He reminded that a "commercial pause" has been recently observed that will last until the end of 2018.



"In this regard, during the meeting, the issues of resuming the purchase of Turkmen gas by Gazprom were discussed, which, according to our plans, will happen as soon as possible - on January 1, 2019," Miller said. "We know well the great opportunities of Turkmenistan, and at the same time we see the growing markets where gas is traditionally supplied," he noted. (Trend)

Brazil Prosecutors Target Far-Right Candidate's Economic Adviser

SAO PAULO - The chief economic policy adviser to Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's leading presidential candidate, is being investigated by federal prosecutors for allegedly taking part in fraud linked to the pension funds of major state-run companies, a prosecutor with direct knowledge of the case told Reuters.

The investigation, first made public by the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper on Wednesday, alleged that the adviser, Paulo Guedes, mismanaged 1 billion reais that public pension funds injected into his investment vehicles starting in 2009. Prosecutors are probing a decision to invest in a company in which



Guedes was the controlling shareholder, along with tens of millions of reais in payments made as speaking fees to unknown parties using some of this money, the prosecutor said, confirming Folha's reporting. Bolsonaro, who met Guedes for the

first time last year, is not accused of any wrongdoing. The newspaper, citing court documents, said Guedes allegedly worked with executives at the pension funds with strong ties to the leftist Workers Party. (Reuters)

(1) U.N. Tallies More than...

how dire the security situation remains.

While the figures show little change in the overall trend of violence, the UN highlighted the indiscriminate use of suicide and IED attacks, which killed 1,065 civilians and wounded 2,569 in the first nine months, a total of 3,634 casualties, compared with 3,007 casualties in the same period of 2017.

"UNAMA recalls that attacks deliberately targeting civilians and the murder of civilians are serious violations of international humanitarian law that amount to war crimes," it said in the report. With parliamentary elections due on Oct. 20, security officials warn that attacks are likely to pick up on polling stations and other election sites, many of which are located in schools, mosques or health clinics. A wave of suicide attacks in the eastern province of Nangarhar and in the capital Kabul this year has hit students preparing for exams, spectators at sporting events, people waiting to register for elections as well as Shi'ite mosques. The mainly Shi'ite Hazara minority has been especially heavily targeted by attacks claimed by the local affiliate of Islamic State.

The report attributed 65 percent of casualties to the Taliban, Islamic State and other anti-government forces.

As casualties from suicide attacks and improvised explosive devices rose, casualties from ground fighting fell by 18 percent to 2,311 (605 deaths and 1,706 injured). At the same time, there was a 39 percent rise in the number of casualties from air strikes, which have risen as air operations have been ramped up, to 649 (313 deaths and 336 injured). (Reuters)

(2) China-Afghanistan...

The joint stamp exhibition would further improve relationship in the field of telecommunication and post between the two friendly countries, he said.

"Afghanistan and China, for the first time issued a joint post stamp in 2005, but more efforts are needed to improve exchange of cultural, telecommunication and trade relations and improve friendship between the two sides," he said.

"Today is World Post Day... The postal service, the letterhead and the stamps have not disappeared, but they have changed their forms. Because people need to communicate with each other, friendship is needed between countries," Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Liu Jinsong said.

Several Afghan officials and Kabul University teachers and students were among the visitors in the one-day display. (Xinhua)

(3) Riyadh Supports...

The ministry said Saudi Arabia stood by Afghanistan against terrorism and extremism. It offered condolences to relatives of the victims, the Afghan government and people. (Pajhwok)

(4) More Than...

there is no doubt that some of these centers are located in insecure areas," said Sayed Hafiz Hashimi, a commissioner of the election commission.

Following the issue, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said that the government concentrates more on maintaining the security of the elections, adding that they expect the people's support in this regard. This comes as some electoral observers criticized the election commission for not taking actions against the candidates who exceeded the amount of the money being set for their election campaigns. (ATN)

(5) Stop Deportations to...

hundreds of people protested against Finland's repatriation policies regarding Afghanistan, according to international media reports. The Finnish government was asked not to send rejected asylum seekers to Afghanistan until the war-hit country ensured their safety and respect for human rights.

Last year, Finnish police carried out 556 deportations. A total of 2,600 people were repatriated that year, the human rights group said. (Pajhwok)

(6) Pak, US Agree...

of his 10-day visit to five countries - Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He ended his two-day visit to Afghanistan on Monday where he met President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and several Afghan leaders.

"Khalilzad's mission is to co-ordinate and lead US efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table," the US State Department statement said last week.

"Khalilzad will also be working in close co-ordination with the Afghan government and various stakeholders and explore how best to reach a negotiated settlement to the conflict," it said.

Qureshi said Pakistan will continue to play its role to find a political solution to the Afghan issue.

Khalilzad and Qureshi earlier met in New York where the latter told the US that Pakistan believed that peace in Afghanistan was directly related to long-lasting stability in Islamabad. (Monitoring Desk)

(7) First Afghan...

to the IOC. Asghari, who hails from Wardak province, has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Relations - Diplomacy and Negotia-

tion and has a long history of playing sport.

She was the goalkeeper of the girls' soccer team at her primary school; captain of the girls' basketball team at middle school and was selected for the national youth basketball team while still at school.

She also played for the adult national basketball team and was selected as team captain by the national basketball federation and the National Olympic Committee.

Asghari has not only been a keen basketball player but she has also taken part in Kungfu events and football tournaments.

Professionally, Asghari has worked for the Women and Sport Department of the Physical Education and Sport Directorate in Afghanistan; for the International Relations Department of the National Olympic Committee and has represented the Afghanistan NOC abroad.

She was head of the Finance Department of the NOC in 2012 and has been an ongoing member of the NOC Executive Board, until being elected as deputy secretary.

In 2016 she became general of the NOC and Honorary Secretary General of the Afghanistan National Cycling Federation.

Asghari is also a member of numerous committees including the Women and Sport Committee, the OCA Cultural Commission, and Afghanistan National Basketball Federation Executive Board member.

In addition, Asghari is a volunteer at the ARCS (Afghanistan Red Crescent Society), Peace and Sport Council in Afghanistan; and an administrative staff member at the Audit Department of the CEO's Office.

Asghari is now one of five new members (three women and two men) elected as individual members to the committee.

The others include Daina Gudzinoviute from Lithuania, the President of the Lithuanian Olympic Committee and five-time Olympian.

- Felicite Rwemarika from Rwanda, First Vice-President of the Rwandan Olympic Committee.

- Camilo Pérez López Moreira from Paraguay, President of the Paraguayan Olympic Committee.

- Giovanni Malagò from Italy, President of the Italian Olympic Committee - effective from 1 January 2019.

Three Members were re-elected after eight years of membership and four, who are finishing their mandate, will become IOC Honorary Members.

The IOC members, natural persons, are representatives of the IOC in their respective countries, and not their country's delegate within the IOC.

As stated in the Olympic Charter: "Members of the IOC represent and

promote the interests of the IOC and of the Olympic Movement in their countries and in the organizations of the Olympic Movement in which they serve". Jacques Rogge is the Honorary President of the IOC. (Tolo news)

(8) Disheartened...

a hundred physically challenged individuals attended the gathering in Shibberghan, the provincial capital, and criticized former Wolesi Jirga members' performance and declared their stance on participation in the Oct 20 polls.

Zikrullah Mazlumy, Jawzjan People with Disabilities Association head who attended the gathering, said: "The election campaigns have been ongoing over the past few days, but it seems the candidates have us and have no programs for us."

He said lawmakers in the past also did nothing for the special people. "We have several times traveled to Kabul to meet lawmakers and share our problems with them, but none appeared to meet us and we disappointedly returned home every time."

Mazlumy said they would welcome candidates who have programs for people with disabilities otherwise all of them would boycott the elections.

Aminullah Babari, a disabled person, also said that candidates had no programs for solving problems of the special people.

The handicapped people would support candidate having programs for solving their problems, he added.

Habiba, another disabled person, said: "Parliament members always insult us instead of supporting us, they always humiliate us."

"We know they would find way to the parliament even if we boycott the polls, but we at least will not be ashamed of having voted them," she concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Zazai's...

Ronchi contributed 26 off 24 balls before being caught and bowled by Rahmat. He struck a six and a four in a 144-run partnership with Zazai. While making short work of the Leopards, whose bowling attack looked so jaded and mediocre, the Zwanan reeled off a well-deserved nine wickets win. Thanks to a merciless innings by Zazai -- the Man of the Match.

Colin Ingram was trapped leg before for just one by Zahir Shah, as Javed Ahmadi remained not out on 13. (Pajhwok)

(10) 119,000 Teachers...

phone money system, teachers will be able to draw their salaries from the telecommunication companies branches, stores where the companies have agents, banks where the companies have contracts, and in some areas teachers will be able to get their salaries from vendors who sell mobile phone top up cards. One reason for establishing this sys-

tem is to prevent corruption and misuse of salary payments.

The Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Shahzadgul Aryubi, meanwhile said the ministry will soon tender for companies for the same system for a further 120,000 employees of the Ministry of Education. "Right now, 4,130 employees of the Ministry of Education are receiving their salaries through the mobile payment system. This month there is an additional 7,800 employees and another 6,800 employees within the next two months will receive their salaries through this mobile payment system," the minister said. (Tolo news)

(11) Kidnap Gang...

He said the kidnapers using a fake social media page had cheated the teenager and kidnapped him.

The official said NDS personnel conducted a raid and released Abdul Qaium late on Tuesday.

The kidnapers had demanded \$500,000 from Qaium's father, but he only provided 500,000 afghanis. Meanwhile, Kunduz police spokesman Inamuddin Rahmani also confirmed the incident. (Pajhwok)

(12) OIC Chief...

"all friends of Afghanistan to redouble their efforts to achieve reconciliation and a lasting peaceful settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan."

This comes after Saleh Mohammad Achakzai, an election candidate, died in Tuesday's incident.

Achakzai was at least the 8th candidate to have been killed in attacks since the candidate registration process in July.

On September 25, Nasir Mubarez, a candidate for the Kochis, from Kandahar, was killed by unknown armed men in a shooting in Kandahar City's PD2.

On September 2, Anwar Niazi, a Parwan candidate, was killed and two others wounded when a magnetic IED was detonated against the vehicle they were traveling in. The incident took place in Kabul city center, in Shirpoor, in PD10, at about 7pm local time.

In August, Jalal Salehi, a candidate from Kabul, was killed during a security forces operation in Kabul's Shakar Dara district.

Another candidate, former member of Ghazni provincial council, Sayed Obaidullah Sadat, was killed in Ghazni on July 14 by unknown armed men.

On July 1, the Afghan Sikh and Hindu community leader, Ottar Singh Khalsa, who was running for parliamentary elections, was killed in a suicide attack in Jalalabad city in Nangarhar province.

And on July 30, another Nangarhar candidate, Hayatullah Khan Rahmani, was killed when a suicide bomber targeted him in Rodat district in the province.

More than 2,500 candidates are running for 249 parliamentary seats in the October 20 elections. (Tolo news)