Tillerson Pays Flying Visit to Afghanistan to Discuss U.S. Strategy

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday discussed with Afghan leaders, the U.S. strategy for ending America’s longest war, in a brief, unreported visit that underscored the challenge of quelling the country’s insurgency.

Tillerson, Ghani Arrive in New Delhi Today

KABUL - The US secretary of state is expected underline the Trump administration’s strategy to give India a crucial role in the enforcement of the South Asia policy.

Rex Tillerson, during three-day visit to New Delhi beginning on Tuesday, would make a pitch establishing Afghanistan’s leading Indian daily reported on Monday.

Tillerson will fly into Delhi from Islamabad during his five-nation trip, according to The Times of India, which said the US might deliver a blunt message to Pakistan on terror safe havens.

Top Russian, Indian Diplomats Meet on Afghanistan

KABUL - A Russian recently visited New Delhi for discussions on Afghanistan with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar.

The Times of India reported on Monday the Indian government had kept secret President Vladimir Putin’s special envoy Zamir Kabulov’s trip, keeping in mind the sensitive nature of the discussions.

Kabulov reportedly restated Russia’s position that the US was in a blind alley as Taliban controlled more than 40 percent of Afghanistan’s territory.

Bagram Air Base - Tillerson spent almost three hours in a heavily guarded building in the main U.S. military facility in Afghanistan, most of the time in talks with President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and other US and Afghan officials.

A small group of US media accompanied the former ExxonMobil CEO on his first official visit to Afghanistan were prohibited for security reasons from filing dispatches, photographs and video until they returned to Qatar.

While there have been no recent attacks on the airbase by Taliban insurgents, the sprawling facility north of Kabul has been regularly hit since the 2001 U.S.

US, Afghanistan Agree to Resolve Tax Dispute

KABUL - The Afghan and US governments have reportedly agreed to resolve the pre-2015 tax dispute, however, it is unclear if the Cabinet has approved the agreement.

The agreement happened on terms included a payment of $52 million to the Afghan government to assist it in meeting food bills of the Afghan National Police.

Subject to the payment being received, subcontractors shall be entitled to the same tax exemptions as prime contractors on pre-2015 revenues.

The settlement agreement is subject to approval by the Afghan Cabinet.

Zakhelwal to Discuss Import Duty Issue with Pakistan

KABUL - Afghanistan Ambassador to Pakistan Hazrat Omar Zakhelwal has promised to discuss the increase in customs duty on Afghan goods with the authorities in Islamabad this week.

Zakhelwal held out the promise to a delegation of Afghan businessmen who called on him in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

The ambassador he said...