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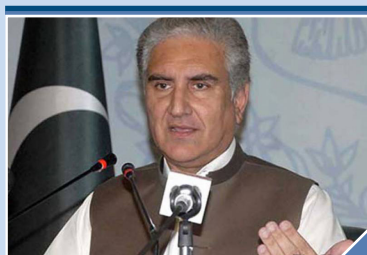
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Khalilzad Calls on Govt, Taliban to Work for Peace, Ceasefire

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad on Tuesday said he condemns Kabul University attack claimed by Daesh added that the "barbaric" attack is not an opportunity for the government and the Taliban "to score points against each other" in the ongoing peace efforts. Khalilzad added that "there is a common enemy here," pointing out to Daesh that has claimed responsibility for the attack. "The terrorist perpetrators are not just against education but are pro-ignorance," Khalilzad said. "They want to breed chaos and instability, terror and poverty. They oppose and fear peace and seek a permanent state of war." "Deny ISIS (Daesh) or any other terrorist the space to carry out these inhumane acts. Unite for peace, find a path to a ceasefire, and accelerate a political settlement. These steps would be the right response to this unspeakable barbarism," Khalilzad added. ... **P2**



Pakistani FM invited to int'l conference on Afghanistan

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday held a telephone conversation with his Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto and was invited to attend an international conference on Afghanistan that is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland later this month, the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan said. Qureshi described the conference as a "welcoming and important initiative" for durable peace and security in Afghanistan, a Pakistani foreign ministry statement said. The two foreign ministers agreed to continue consultations regarding the Afghan peace process and regional security, the statement added. "Pakistan is making sincere efforts for peace in Afghanistan and in the region," the statement quoted Qureshi as saying.

Over 40 Nations, Organizations Condemn Kabul University Attack



A day after the Islamic State-claimed attack on Kabul University, that has claimed the lives of 22 so far, family members of the victims, students and civil society activist staged a protest in front of the campus. The demonstrators gathered near the north gate of the university, demanding justice for the victims

and the execution of those who helped the terrorists in carrying out the attack. They called for the cancellation of the peace talks in Qatar until a ceasefire is declared as the university attack was the latest in the past months which led to massive civilian casualties. Posters on the walls of the campus, which

many students were seen jumping over yesterday as they fled the gunbattle, read "Boycott Doha Talks" and "Republic Will Prevail." The more vocal activists shouted slogans of "We are many! You do not have enough bullets to kill us all!" and also condemned the government for its inaction and failure to protect their citizens.

They asked the U.S. government to reconsider their policy towards the Taliban and asked the Afghan government to withdraw all security and defence forces from "active defence" to offence. The United Nations (UN) was called upon to include the Taliban and its allies in the terrorist blacklist, while the International Court of Justice in Hague was asked to try the Kabul University attack as a war crime and the Taliban as international terrorists. An activist said she had given up hope on the government and asked the people to mobilise since their "daughters and sisters" are still in classrooms. "We will continue our education. Who will protect us? Who is accountable?" they questioned. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on Tuesday that envoys and leaders from over 40 nations and organisations have condemned the Kabul University attack, which according to Reuters, has claimed the lives of at least 35 victims so far. Two government sources told Reuters that around 50 others were wounded in the attack claimed by Islamic State (Daesh), ... **P3**

Naderi, Chinese Envoy Discuss Doha Talks

State Minister for Peace Affairs Sayed Mansour Naderi and the Chinese envoy to Afghanistan on Tuesday discussed the ongoing peace negotiations in Qatari capital Doha. The State Ministry for Peace Affairs tweeted, "SM Naderi met with Chinese Ambassador Wang Yu early this morning." "The two sides discussed peace process and condemned yesterday's barbaric attack at Kabul University." It said Wang Yu also reiterated that no one should use violence for the sake of their political agenda. At least 22 people were killed and 22 others injured in a bomb and gun attack on the Kabul University on Monday.



International donors likely to pledge less aid for Afghanistan

Afghanistan is likely to receive reduced pledges for aid from international donors gathering in Geneva next month, three sources familiar with discussions said, amid uncertainty over how the government's peace talks with the Taliban will progress. Washington is hoping the intra-Afghan peace process will eventually bring the curtain down on the United States' longest war, as it plans to withdraw the remaining few thousand personnel still in Afghanistan by May. But the withdrawal of foreign forces will leave behind a country still dependent on foreign aid, and one in which the Taliban could secure greater influence, making donors uneasy over whether the hardline Islamists will try to roll back progress made on human rights and girls education.



The Taliban did not respond to requests for comment on the concerns, and it was not known whether their representatives would be invited to the donors conference in Geneva on Nov. 23/24. But some analysts see foreign aid as vital in helping donors shape policies of any future Afghan government.

"It's one of the primary forms of leverage the U.S. and international community believe they have over the Taliban," said Andrew Watkins, an analyst covering Afghanistan for International Crisis Group. "Any future Afghan state will rely on foreign aid almost as much as the current one does." The impact of the coronavirus epidemic this year has ... **P3**

Iran's policies...

the election, he said the US political system is suffering a serious decline. He also said that Iran enjoys calculated policies that will not change with a change in US Government. "No matter who wins the US elections, it won't affect our policy toward the US. Some people talk about what will happen if this or that one is elected. Yes, certain events may happen but they don't concern us. Our policy is calculated and clear."

"The US regime suffers from severe political, civil, and moral deviations. This is what their own analysts say. Such a regime won't last long. Of course, if certain people hold office, they speed up its destruction, while with others it may take a little longer."

Highlighting the need to focus on domestic capabilities to boost the country's economy, he noted that the economy should not be tied to the developments of another country and the solution to problems is not outside the country.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei called for an immediate end to the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

He noted that Azerbaijan is 'entitled' to liberate its occupied territories while highlighting that the security of Armenians living in the region should be ensured.

Terrorists should not be stationed near Iranian borders and that if Iran feels a threat, it will adopt a decisive response, he warned.

What Afghanistan Wants from the Winner of the U.S. Election

Afghanistan is calling for long-term commitments from the winner of Tuesday's election, including security support and society-building, as both presidential candidates promise to end the United States' longest-running war.

To Kabul, it's about more than the conflict.

"The U.S.-Afghanistan Partnership has been based on mutual security interests, so characterizing it only as the longest war is overly simplistic," Afghan ambassador to the U.S. Roya Rahmani told Newsweek.

"This partnership has been incredibly productive in fighting terrorism and containing the spread of violent extremism," she added. "We have achieved so much together, from empowering women to developing democratic institutions to strengthening Afghan Security Forces so we can be self-sufficient. All of these achievements serve as an insurance policy for the long-term safety and security of Americans."

Nearly 2,500 U.S. nationals, hundreds of other foreigners and tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed in 19 years of warfare between the Afghan government and the Taliban, an Islamist movement that partnered with Al-Qaeda at the time of the 9/11 attacks. Despite nearly two decades of being targeted by a U.S.-led coalition, the Taliban remains in control of vast swathes of territory in the nation, making hopes for a military solution remote.

As the third U.S. leader to oversee the war in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump has opted to negotiate with the group. Though deadly violence persists, his administration has managed to bring the two rival factions to the table for the first time. With Trump promising to pull troops out by Christmas, however, there are concerns that no matter who wins the U.S. election, a hasty exit could serve as a de facto win for the Taliban after a generation of warfare.

"We understand the fatigue in America, but withdrawal must be measured and strategic in order to preserve the gains that Americans and Afghans have sacrificed so much for," Rahmani said. "Without withdrawal being conditional, there would be a lack of incentive for the Taliban to fully



commit to the ongoing peace process."

This means expanding the breadth of Washington-Kabul ties.

"We are all working toward an end state that will transform the Afghan-U.S. partnership from only being a security-focused relationship to a strategic, security, and economic-focused one," she argued. "This way, as and when the U.S. wishes to fully withdraw, it won't be used as a statement of victory for those who have been killing Americans and their allies alongside their Afghan comrades for the past 19 years."

Taliban spokesperson Muhammad Naem declined Newsweek's request for comment.

Earlier this month, CBS News quoted an unnamed senior Taliban leader as saying he hoped "Trump will win the election and wind up U.S. military presence in Afghanistan," in a comment originally misattributed to Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid.

The group has agreed to talk with Afghan officials only on the condition that a total U.S. military departure was on the table. In exchange, the Taliban strives for a power-sharing deal, one in which they would agree to reject the likes of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State militant group (ISIS).

The Taliban, officially the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, predates U.S. intervention in the

country, but its roots lie with historic U.S. interests there.

The organization emerged in the 1990s as the leading faction of mujahideen that defeated a Soviet-backed government after a decade-long war in which the Afghan opposition received CIA backing and support. Al-Qaeda also emerged in Afghanistan during the latter years of the conflict, composed mostly of Arab volunteers led by the likes of Saudi national Osama bin Laden and the Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Bin Laden was killed in a 2011 Navy Seal Team Six raid on his compound in Pakistan ordered by former President Barack Obama. Zawahiri remains at large and his whereabouts remain officially unknown.

The U.S. continues to target Al-Qaeda officials in multiple countries, including parts of Afghanistan and Syria, where Trump oversaw the Army Delta Force operation that resulted in the death of ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as Newsweek first reported at the time.

In Afghanistan, ISIS has established a local branch known as ISIS-Khorasan, or ISIS-K. Though its influence remains minor compared to that of the Taliban, the jihadi branch has conducted deadly attacks targeting civilians and security forces alike. It's hoped that the Taliban could become a partner in efforts to suppress ISIS-K, but the long ... **P3**

By AHMADULLAH AZADANI

Why Afghanistan Has Pledged Support for Azerbaijan in Nagorno Karabakh

As the long-standing Nagorno Karabakh conflict has again erupted into war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Afghanistan has officially announced its support for Azerbaijan. Ravaged by an unending war itself for decades, Kabul's response to the irredentist claims of another nation has proven unexpected and surprising for Afghan citizens.

The armed conflict re-ignited on 27 September when Azerbaijani and Armenian forces clashed after the cessation of armed hostilities in 1994 over control over Nagorno Karabakh. The region is officially part of Muslim Azerbaijan but controlled by ethnic Armenians, supported by neighboring Christian Armenia.

A day after hostilities erupted, Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an official press release affirmed that the contested region is "internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan." While calling for a ceasefire, the government lodged its support for Azerbaijan, demanding an end of "Armenian occupation." This announcement has revived Afghanistan's historical engagement with Azerbaijan.

As a post-Soviet Islamic country ravaged by a civil war in the 1990s, Afghanistan, in an unprecedented move, sent hundreds of armed mercenaries to fight on behalf of Azerbaijan against Armenia in 1993. Between 1,000 and 1,500 Afghan forces from the Iran-

supported Wahdat party — allied with then-prime minister Gulbadin Hikmatyar — were deployed to Azerbaijan for an unspecified amount of cash.

Although the Azerbaijani government refuted reports of this, evidence obtained by The Christian Monitor verified the presence of Afghan mercenaries in the war. This deployment added the prospect of further internationalization of the conflict and lent it a more religious dimension, pitting Muslims and Christians. Armenia objected to the presence of Afghan fighters in the war. Armenia has once again lodged a protest against Afghanistan's position in the conflict. In response to the recent statement by Afghanistan, the Armenian National Assembly formally asked for Afghanistan's membership in the Collective Security Organization to be revoked.

Afghanistan-Azerbaijan Economic Relationship
Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have had forces in Afghanistan; they each took part in NATO-led combat operations in the country. However, Azerbaijan has seemingly gained Afghanistan's trust. A great deal of this trust is pragmatic, as Afghanistan attempts to diversify its trade routes by replacing Pakistani ports.

The amiability between these two Central Asian countries can best be explained

through this economic lens. President Ashraf Ghani's foreign policy is largely economic, with a focus on states in its near region. Afghanistan perceives Azerbaijan as a gatekeeper for access to Central Asian and European markets.

Both countries can provide one another markets for their products. Oil-rich Azerbaijan uses Afghanistan land routes for access to other countries in Central Asia, while Afghanistan depends heavily on Azerbaijan's transit position for access to Turkey and European markets. Trade between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan rose 37 percent throughout 2018 and 46 percent in the first quarter of 2019. A crucial long-term initiative that has strengthened relations between the two countries is the Lapis-lazuli route, a trade corridor beginning in Afghanistan which winds through Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, connecting to European trade routes.

Afghanistan's recent declaration of support for Azerbaijan in its war with Armenia reflects its desire to strengthen ties with countries which will help it increase its trade with global markets. Afghanistan sees Azerbaijan as instrumental in this strategy, which is the primary reason it has declared its support for Azerbaijan over Armenia in their recent re-engagement in conflict over the Nagorno Karabakh region.

Khalilzad Calls...

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a statement expressed his "deepest sympathies" to the families of Kabul University attack victims and said it is the second attack on a school facility in Kabul in 10 days and is "an assault on the human right to education."

He said UN stands by the people and the government of Afghanistan in support of their long-held aspirations for peace.

The attack on Kabul University, one of the biggest higher education institutions in the country, ended after six hours when all three attackers were killed, the Interior Affairs Ministry said.

The attack started at around 11:00 am on Monday morning when three attackers entered the university compound and moved towards a training center at Law Faculty that was apparently their main target as security sources put it. The Law Faculty is near the eastern gate of the university from where the attackers entered the compound.

Sources also said that five attackers were involved in the attack.

The Afghan government announced Tuesday a national day of mourning over the attack.

The Presidential Palace said the national will fly at half-mast across the country and at all diplomatic missions around the world.

In a message on the attack, President Ghani said, "the enemies of knowledge and progress continued to terrorize our people and perpetrated a vicious terrorist attack on Kabul University."

"We convey a clear message to all terrorist groups including Taliban that such acts of terror and atrocity can never deter the resolve of the great Afghan nation for a peaceful, stable and thriving Afghanistan," Ghani says.

NCP vehicles' registration process begins

The Ministry of Finance on Saturday announced launching registration of all non-customs-paid (NCP) vehicles and warned that no NCP vehicle would be permitted on road beyond December 17.

The ministry said the action was taken following a presidential decree and Act No.15 of the National Security Council (NSC) and the aim of the process was to increase national revenue, improve security and public order and control traffic.

Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, acting finance minister, talking on the occasion, said, "Registration of NCP vehicles would improve national security, because most of illegal activities involve these type of vehicles."

He said all vehicles illegally trafficked

into the country since 1990 would be registered and if anyone illegally imported vehicles beyond the deadline will face legal action.

Khalilullah Salehzada, general customs director, stressed that owners of all NCP vehicles should register their vehicles in provincial customs offices or revenue offices until December 17 because applications beyond the date would not be acceptable.

The MoF said non-armored vehicles manufactured between 1990 to 2000 would be given 80 percent discount, 2001 to 2010 (75) percent discount and 2011 to 2020, (35) percent discount in duty charges.

Armored vehicles manufactured between 2000 to 2007 would be given 50 percent discount, 2008 to 2015 (45)



percent discount and 2016 to 2020 (35) percent discount, the ministry said. Kabul Traffic Department in June 2018 had said that around 70,000

registered right steering vehicles and thousands of other undocumented vehicles would be collected in Kabul and provinces.

Over 40 Nations,...

and most victims were students at the university. UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement expressed his "deepest sympathies" to the families of the victims and said this was the second attack in the capital on an education facility in the last 10 days - after the Oct. 24 Kowsar-e Danesh suicide bombing, also claimed by IS-K.

He said the attack is also "an assault on the human right to education."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said they will continue to support Afghanistan's "brave struggle" against terrorism.

Pakistan's Special Representative Mohammad Sadiq condemned the "mindless" attack and said they condemn "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." Saudi Arabia also rejected "heinous acts" which target innocent lives and undermine security and stability.

The Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated their firm position of "rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons."

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expressed their "permanent rejection" of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at destabilising security in contravention of religious and humanitarian values and principles.

India, U.S.,...

across its side of the de facto border. Beijing denies any intrusion and says India has been building roads and other infrastructure in the disputed area, causing the crisis.

Australia's diplomatic relations with China also worsened this year after Canberra led calls for an international inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic and Beijing imposed trade sanctions on Australian beef and barley.

Separately, Japan is embroiled in a dispute with China over ownership of islands in the East China Sea.

International...

made Afghanistan's plight worse, with government revenues sinking, and unemployment and poverty projected to rise dramatically. Yet, donors are likely to tell Afghanistan to expect, possibly significantly, less aid, while also imposing stricter conditions and committing funds for a shorter period, said the three sources, who declined to be named because the discussions are private.

All three sources said the United States, Afghanistan's largest donor, is likely to make deep cuts to its current annual contribution of around \$800 million for civilian funding, beyond the money allocated for defence and security needs. One said Washington could not only "cut aid by half", but could also move "away from a four-year-commitment cycle" to pledge funds for just a year. Other NATO members like Britain and France were also considering reducing pledges,

while Australia was planning cuts of up to 30%, two sources said.

The U.S. State Department and Australia's department of foreign affairs did not immediately respond to requests for comment. France's Embassy in Kabul declined to comment and the British Foreign Office did not respond to questions around its plans on aid pledges.

SWITCHING TO ANNUAL REVIEWS

Dozens of donor nations and multilateral institutions have met every four years to pledge the billions of dollars that fund roughly three-quarters of the Afghan government's budget. The aid is largely pledged to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), a World Bank managed fund that finances vital national priority programs in a country where the United States has been fighting for 19 years.

At the last donor conference in Brussels four years ago, donors

pledged \$15.2 billion in aid to support Afghanistan between 2017-2020, an equivalent to \$3.8 billion per year.

A spokesman at Afghanistan's finance ministry said it was premature to comment on aid figures, but the government did not expect any reductions in pledges.

Finland's foreign minister Pekka Haavisto, whose government is co-organising the Geneva meeting, said one major change will be a switch to reviewing funding annually, rather every four years.

He said "strict conditions" would be applied during reviews to address donor concerns about corruption, and to safeguard progress made on rights issues since U.S. backed forces ousted a Taliban government in 2001.

"The donor community don't want to lose the achievements of the last 19 years," Haavisto told Reuters. "The best answer has been yearly check-ups and clear conditionality."

What Afghanistan...

term results of such an arrangement remain uncertain. Afghan officials continue to allege coordination between the two groups in attacks such as the siege that killed at least 22 people at Kabul University on Monday, a plot claimed by ISIS-K and condemned by the Taliban.

The dynamic tensions between the various factions make for an uncertain future.

"The peace process will succeed if both parties are negotiating in good faith and believe that the only viable option is a political settlement," Rahmani told Newsweek. "Unfortunately, the escalation of violence does not indicate that that is happening."

Both Trump and his Democratic rival former Vice President Joe Biden have pledged to ultimately end the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan, calling the campaign part of a series of "endless wars" launched as

part of the post-9/11 "War on Terror" initiated under former President George W. Bush.

Trump has touted his record of pioneering a diplomatic track to resolve the conflict, while Biden has accused him of being soft in the face of allegations that Russia offered the Taliban bounties to kill U.S. troops, a report U.S. officials speaking to Newsweek have challenged. The two men have said less about their post-withdrawal plans for the country, and Afghan officials like Rahmani seek clarity.

"The best way for the U.S. president to support the peace process is to be clear about which side is going to be a better partner for the U.S. in the long-term, assess compliance to agreements based on empirical evidence and attention to detail, and capitalize on the investments made in the past 20 years and the large youth population in order to further our mutual interests," she told Newsweek.

Doing so would involve investments beyond security and addressing other areas of Afghan society suffering from a seemingly intractable conflict. "Furthermore, economic development, women's rights, and democratic governance are all key elements of a durable peace," Rahmani said. "We are grateful that the U.S. has not only committed to supporting the peace negotiations itself, but also to supporting all of the underlying elements that will help create a culture of peace that will last."

She argued such support would serve not only Kabul's interests but Washington's as well.

"By supporting Afghans during both peace negotiations and peacebuilding efforts," Rahmani said, "the U.S. president will be ensuring that Afghanistan will never again be a safe haven for terrorism and future generations of both Americans and Afghans will be safer as a result."

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Iran's policies not to change with change of U.S. Govt

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran has its own calculated policies that will not change with a change in the US government.

The Leader said he will talk about the three topics that have coincided on this day namely, the birth anniversary of the Prophet, the start of Unity Week, and the US Embassy Takeover. He condemned the French Magazine for reprinting insulting cartoons of the Prophet of Islam.

"Today, the main enemies of Islam are the Arrogant Powers and Zionism. The last manifestation of their enmity was the Paris incident. It is not just about one caricaturist committing a wrongdoing. Arrogant Powers and Zionism support this. That's why they speak in defense of such acts."

The Leader described the French President's support for the cartoons as 'outrageous'. French government harbors savage terrorists who killed Iranian politicians and people and now claims to be a supporter of human rights and freedom of speech, he said.

This is the indication of the 'savagery' of the West while they try to cover this feature using technology, he said.

Condemning some countries' efforts to normalize ties with the Zionist regime, he said certain Arab regimes trampled upon Palestinian nation's right by normalizing Israel. Such plots by enemies require Muslims to forge unity more than ever, he stressed.

US Presidential race

Noting that presidential rivals are accusing each other of extensive fraud in ... **P2**



A look at the world

India, U.S., Japan and Australia kick off large naval drills

India, the United States, Japan and Australia began their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade on Tuesday, Indian government sources said, seen as part of efforts to balance China's vast military and economic power in the region. The annual "Malabar" wargames that India holds with the United States and Japan have been expanded to include Australia this year to cover all members of the Quad, an informal group of the four largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

China has accused the United States, which has been leading the effort to forge a common front among its allies, of a "Cold



War mentality" and ideological prejudice. Five ships of the Indian Navy, including a submarine, were deployed in the exercise along with U.S. Navy's John S McCain missile destroyer, Australia's Ballarat frigate and a Japanese destroyer, the Indian ministry of defence said.

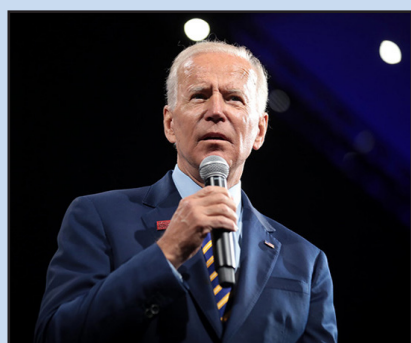
There will be no contact between the military personnel of the four nations because of COVID-19 restrictions during the first phase of the drills running till Nov. 6, it said.

Later this month, India and the United States will deploy aircraft carriers in the drills, a military source said.

"The exercise will showcase the high-levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order," the defence ministry said in its statement.

The exercises comes at a time when the host, India, is locked in a military stand-off on the disputed land border with China. Thousands of troops are in close proximity in the western Himalayas, where India says Chinese troops have intruded ... **P3**

START renewal to be more difficult if Biden elected, expert says



It will be more difficult to negotiate extension of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) if Joe Biden is elected as the US President, Professor Roderick Kiewiet from the California Institute of Technology told TASS on Tuesday.

"If [Joe] Biden is elected, a disarmament deal would be much more difficult to achieve. I don't think they [the Democratic Party - TASS] are capable of a foreign policy that treats Russia fairly," the expert said. The political science specialist doubts statements of the alleged Russian interference in the election process in the United States. "Biden and the Democrats are completely vested in the crazy idea that the Russians are trying to undermine the US elections. By the way, there is no shortage of people in the US trying to accomplish exactly that! They run Twitter and Google, for example," the expert noted.

The Democratic Party also demonstrated its bias towards Russia after confidential email correspondence of Hunter Biden, the son of Joe Biden, leaked into mass media, Kiewiet says. "Another case in point—when the contents of Hunter Biden's laptop were made public, Biden and the Democrats asserted that it was another act of 'Russian disinformation,'" he added.

However, "If the New START Treaty is terminated, the military-political situation will become significantly more complicated, since, in the absence of restrictive treaty norms, the United States may uncontrollably build up its strategic arms. We emphasize that this is an extremely dangerous path, because once again, like in the second half the 20th century, peace will balance on the brink of a global nuclear catastrophe," the article said.

One Parisian infected with Covid-19 every 30 seconds, says official

One Parisian is getting infected with Covid-19 every 30 seconds, while every 15 minutes there is a Parisian arriving in hospital as a result of the disease, health minister Olivier Veran said on Tuesday.

Veran made the comments to RTL Radio in response to demands by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo to open up small bookshops and other smaller stores to try to keep commerce and social activity ticking over despite a new lockdown in France.

Veran said any such move was too risky given the high Covid-19 infection rates in the French capital.



"She cannot ignore the fact that every 15 minutes, in the hospitals of Paris, there is someone ill who has been hospitalised with COVID. She cannot ignore the fact that every 30 seconds, there is a Parisian who has been contaminated," said Veran. "We want to save the Parisians and the French people and we do that with determination and consistency," he added. France reported a record 52,518 new Covid-19 on Monday, while the country's Covid-19 death toll rose by 416 to 37,435. The number of deaths from COVID-19 globally is more than 1,200,850 and the number of known global coronavirus cases is 46,544,769, according to Johns Hopkins University.

However, according to the Afghanistan MoPH, three patients have succumbed to the virus in the past day while 13 have recovered.

Samples tested positive in the Balkh (27), Takhar (16), Kandahar (15), Baghlan (10), Kabul (9), Kunduz (8), Nangarhar (7) and Bamiyan (3).

Afghanistan has 5,829 active cases with 34,355 recovered and 1,544 deaths.



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