

Taliban say they are not looking to rule Afghanistan alone

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban said today they are not seeking a “monopoly on power” in a future administration in Afghanistan but are looking for ways to co-exist with Afghan institutions — the most conciliatory statement to date from the militants.

The statement came amid intensified U.S.-led efforts to resolve the long-running Afghanistan war. U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad reported this week that there had been “agreements in principle” toward a framework for peace with the Taliban after 17 years of war.

The Taliban control almost half of the country and carry out near-daily attacks, mainly targeting Afghan security forces and government officials. Khalilzad said the deal could lead to a full pullout of U.S. troops in return for a cease-fire and Taliban talks with the Afghan government.

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman based in the Gulf Arab

country of Qatar where the Taliban have a political office, said that once U.S. forces withdraw from Afghanistan, the Taliban want to live with other Afghans, “tolerate one another and start life like brothers.”

“After the end of the occupation, Afghans should forget their past and tolerate one another and start life like brothers. After the withdrawal, we are not seeking a monopoly on power,” Shaheen said. “We believe in an inclusive Afghan world, where all Afghans can see themselves in it.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., cautioned the Trump administration Tuesday against an early exit from Syria and Afghanistan, saying that the Islamic State and al-Qaida militants still pose a “serious threat” to the United States.

President Donald Trump recently announced plans for a U.S. pullout from Syria — a decision that prompted Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to resign. Trump also



AP Photo/Massoud Hossaini

U.S. Marines stand guard during a change of command ceremony Jan. 15 in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

has ordered the military to develop plans to remove up to half of the 14,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

“Simply put, while it is tempting to retreat to the comfort and security of our own shores, there is still a great deal of work to be done,” McConnell said. “And we know that left untended these conflicts will reverberate in our own cities.”

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan has

been briefed on the talks and described them as encouraging, but he also told reporters that the department has not been directed to prepare for a full withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Shaheen said the Taliban envision a reformed police and local police forces, without offering specifics. Afghanistan’s local police forces have been widely criticized as deeply corrupt and intimidating of

the local population.

Shaheen said another round of talks with Khalilzad, the U.S. envoy, is planned for Feb. 25 in Doha.

Khalilzad, who held talks with the Taliban for six days last week in Qatar, said during a visit to Kabul on Monday that much more remains to be done but that there has been significant progress toward an agreement with the insurgents.

In turn, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani assured Afghans that no deals would be made without the Kabul government’s awareness and full participation.

U.S. troops invaded Afghanistan in November 2001 in response to the Sept. 11 attacks and ousted the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden. The Taliban, who had ruled Afghanistan since 1996, had imposed a harsh form of Islamic law.

Shaheen also said the U.S. and the Taliban will establish joint technical teams to work out details of a future

U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan as well as ways of preventing Afghanistan from again becoming a haven for terrorist groups such as al-Qaida.

Khalilzad, who was appointed last September, has stepped up efforts to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan’s protracted war that will allow an eventual withdrawal of U.S. forces and bring to an end America’s longest military engagement that has already cost Washington about \$1 trillion.

President Donald Trump has also expressed frustration with the U.S. continued involvement in Afghanistan, lending a greater urgency to an early settlement.

Despite intense negotiations with Khalilzad, the Taliban have refused to negotiate directly with Kabul and often refer to the Afghan government as puppets of the United States. Khalilzad has also pressed Ghani’s government, which is deeply divided, to cobble together a strong negotiating team.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Flights canceled, offices close amid frigid Midwest weather

BISMARCK, N.D. — A deadly arctic deep freeze enveloped the Midwest with record-breaking temperatures today, triggering widespread closures of schools and businesses, and the canceling of more than 1,600 flights from Chicago’s airports. The cold even prompted the U.S. Postal Service to suspend mail delivery to a wide swath of the region.

Hundreds of public schools and several large universities from North Dakota to Pennsylvania canceled classes, and residents huddled inside as the National Weather Service forecast plunging temperatures from one of the coldest air masses in years.

In Chicago, temperatures were still dropping after plunging early today to minus 19 degrees, breaking the day’s previous record low set in 1966, though wind chills in northern Illinois made it feel as cold as negative 57 degrees.

Snowplows were idled overnight in southwestern Minnesota, where temperatures dropped to negative 29 degrees. And the temperature in Fargo, North Dakota, was 31 degrees below zero.

Trump administration launches plan for asylum seekers to wait in Mexico

SAN DIEGO — The Trump administration on Tuesday quietly launched an effort to make asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. immigration courts, despite clear reservations and conflicting messages from the Mexican government.

The U.S. returned one asylum seeker to Mexico — a Honduran man — on the first day of what would be one of the most dramatic changes to the U.S. immigration sys-

tem of Donald Trump’s presidency, if the policy survives an anticipated legal challenge. Carlos Gomez, 55, arrived in Tijuana around midday and asked authorities for a ride to a migrant shelter.

Mexican officials sent mixed signals on the crucial point of whether Mexico would impose limits on accepting families. Tonatihu Guillen, commissioner of Mexico’s National Immigration Institute, said Mexico would only accept people 18 to 60 years old, which rules out families with young children.

The launch is limited to San Diego’s San Ysidro border crossing, the nation’s busiest, though Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan wrote in a memo released Tuesday that it is expected to expand to other crossings “in the near future.” Adding to a sense of confusion, Guillen said Mexico will only allow it at the one crossing that connects San Diego and Tijuana.

Trump Organization to use E-Verify for worker status checks

NEW YORK — The Trump Organization, responding to claims that some of its workers were in the U.S. illegally, said today that it will use the E-Verify electronic system at all of its properties to check employees’ documentation.

A lawyer for a dozen immigrant workers at the Trump National Golf Club in New York’s Westchester County said recently that they were fired on Jan. 18. He said many had worked there for a dozen or more years. Workers at another Trump club in New Jersey came forward last month to allege managers there had hired them knowing they were in the country illegally.

Launched in 1996, the E-Verify system allows employers to check documentation submitted by job applicants with records at the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to see whether they are

authorized to work.

During his presidential campaign, Trump called for all employers to use the federal government online E-Verify system. He told MSNBC in 2016 that he uses it at his properties, and that there should be a “huge financial penalty” for companies that hire undocumented workers.

Apple to fix FaceTime bug that allows eavesdropping after weeklong delay

Apple has disabled a group-chat function in FaceTime after users said a software bug could let callers activate another person’s microphone remotely.

With the bug, a FaceTime user calling another iPhone, iPad or Mac computer could hear audio — even if the receiver did not accept the call. The bug is triggered when callers add themselves to the same call to launch a group chat. That makes FaceTime think the receiver had accepted the chat.

The bug, demonstrated through videos online, comes as an embarrassment for a company that is trying to distinguish itself by stressing its commitment to users’ privacy.

Word of the bug came as Apple reported that profit for the last three months of 2018 dipped slightly to \$20 billion while revenue fell 5 percent from the prior year to \$84 billion. Earlier this month, Apple said that demand for iPhones was waning and that its earnings for the final quarter of 2018 would be below its own forecasts — a rare downgrade from the company.

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TV SCHEDULE

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												JANUARY 30	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	Chicago Med "The Poison Inside Us"	Chicago Fire "What Will Define You"	Chicago P.D. "True or False"	Chicago P.D. "True or False"		KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Criminal Minds "Sick and Evil"	Criminal Minds "Sick and Evil"		News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Criminal Minds "Sick and Evil"	Criminal Minds "Sick and Evil"		KIRO News (N)	(3:5) Colbert
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Chicago Med "The Poison Inside Us"	Chicago Fire "What Will Define You"	Chicago Fire "What Will Define You"	Chicago P.D. "True or False"	Chicago P.D. "True or False"		News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show
8	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Riverdale (N)	All American "All Eyes on Me" (N)	All American "All Eyes on Me" (N)	Friends	Friends		Two and a Half	Two and a Half
9	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Naledi: One Little Elephant"	Nova "First Face of America"	Nova "First Face of America"	Dictator's Playb "Manuel Noriega" (N)	Dictator's Playb "Manuel Noriega" (N)		Rick Steves'	
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	To Hell and Back "Stone's Throw" (N)	Masked Singer "Mix and Masks" (N)	Masked Singer "Mix and Masks" (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
11	KPDx	(2) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)	Big Bang Theory	Family Guy		American Dad!	The Game
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	To Hell and Back "Stone's Throw" (N)	Masked Singer "Mix and Masks" (N)	Masked Singer "Mix and Masks" (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
13	TBS	(20) Family Guy "Blue Harvest"		Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)		Conan (N)	Full Frontal
14	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN	(29) NBA Basketball Indiana vs Washington (L)		NBA Basketball Utah Jazz at Portland Trail Blazers Site: Moda Center -- Portland, Ore. (L)					(3:5) After Buzzer (L) SportsCenter (N)	(10) SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
16	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	NFL Live	NFL Live		Now or Never	Interruption
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office	The Office		Friends	Friends
18	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd		Sydney to the Max	Raven's Home
19	FAM	(34) *** Tangled (10, Comedy) Voices of Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Mandy Moore.				Grown-ish (N)	*** The Goonies (1985, Adventure) Corey Feldman, Josh	Corey Feldman, Josh	Brolin, Sean Astin.	Brolin, Sean Astin.		The 700 Club	
20	FMC	(35) (05) *** The Sandlot (1993, Children) Mike Vitar, James Earl Jones, Tom Guiry.				(10) * The Sandlot 2 (2005, Children) James Willson, Max Lloyd-Jones.			(10) The Fault in Our Stars (14) Ansel Elgort, Willem Dafoe, Shailene Woodley.	(10) The Fault in Our Stars (14) Ansel Elgort, Willem Dafoe, Shailene Woodley.			
21	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy "Where the Boys Are"		Grey's Anatomy "Staring at the Sun"		ProjectRunway "Of Corsets Fashion" (N)	Project Runway "On the Prowl" (N)	Project Runway "On the Prowl" (N)	(05) American Beauty Star (N)	(05) American Beauty Star (N)		(05) Project Runway "On the Prowl"	
22	ROOT	(38) PBA Bowling Lubbock Sports Open				Champions Tennis Classics 2018 Champions Cup QQQ Series			Cliff Diving	Cliff Diving		NCAA Basketball St. John's at Creighton	
23	FS1	(39) (5:30) NCAA Basketball St. John's at Creighton (L)		Fox College Hoops		NCAA Basketball USC at Washington (L)			Fair Game	TMZ Sports (N)		NCAA Basketball Marquette at Butler	
24	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy/Drama) Sally Field, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.	South Park	South Park		The Daily Show (N)	(3:5) Broad City
25	COM	(44) South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park		Forged "The Sawback Hunting Sword"	
26	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "The Kampilan"		Forged in Fire "The Arming Sword"		Vikings "What Happens in the Cave"	Vikings "Ragnarok" (SF) (N)	Vikings "Ragnarok" (SF) (N)	Knights of Braveheart (N)	Knights of Braveheart (N)		Forged "The Sawback Hunting Sword"	
27	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars "Scariest Lockers" (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)		(3:5) Storage Wars	(3:5) Storage Wars
28	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life "Justin's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Holly's Story" (N)		My 600-lb Life "Holly's Story" (N)			By the Ton "The Kings: Do or Die" (N)	By the Ton "The Kings: Do or Die" (N)		My 600-lb Life "Sean's Story"	
29	DISC	(48) Moonshiners "Backwoods Justice"		Moonshiners "Wrong Side of the Law"		Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N)	Moonshiners (N)	Moonshiners (N)	Homestead Rescue (N)	Homestead Rescue (N)		Homestead Rescue "Poisoned"	
30	NGEO	(49) Abroad "Double Crossed in the Desert"		Locked up "Nightmare in Somalia"		Locked Up "Cocaine Crash Landing" (N)	Locked up "Bangkok Betrayal" (N)	Locked up "Bangkok Betrayal" (N)	Locked up "Running Scared" (N)	Locked up "Running Scared" (N)		Locked Up Abroad "Bangkok Betrayal"	
31	TNT	(50) (4:30) RoboCop ("14, Act) Joel Kinnaman.		(05) * Rogue One (2016, Action) Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn, Felicity Jones.					Drop the Mic (N)	Joker's Wild (N)		Law Abiding Citizen (09) Jamie Foxx.	
32	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.				*** Jaws (1975, Horror) Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.			Jaws 2 (1978, Horror) Roy Scheider.	Jaws 2 (1978, Horror) Roy Scheider.		Modern Family	Modern Family
33	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "The Newsroom"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Real Fake News"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Contrapasso"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "No Good Reason"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "No Good Reason"	Suits "Whale Hunt" (N)	Suits "Whale Hunt" (N)		Guy's Grocery Games "All Burgers 2"	
34	FOOD	(53) Guy's Grocery Games "Ggg Kids"		Guy's Game "Budget Bonanza"		Guy's Grocery Games "Pizza Play-Offs"	Guy's Game "Big Game Day" (N)	Guy's Game "Big Game Day" (N)	Guy's Game "Comfort Food Cook-Off"	Guy's Game "Comfort Food Cook-Off"		Property Brothers	Property Brothers
35	HGTV	(54) Property "Floored by the Renovation"		Property Brothers "Wishful Building"		Property Bros. "Tight Transformation"	Property Brothers (N)	Property Brothers (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)		X-Men: Apocalypse Jennifer Lawrence.	
36	FX	(56) (5:00) ** The Wolverine (2013, Action) Will Yun Lee, Tao Okamoto, Hugh Jackman.				*** X-Men: Apocalypse (2016, Action) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence.			Cuomo Prime Time	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
37	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360	Cuomo Prime Time	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
38	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
39	CNBC	(61) Deal No Deal "Father Knows Best" (N)		Deal or No Deal		Deal or No Deal "Flying High"	Deal or No Deal "Father Knows Best"	Deal or No Deal "Father Knows Best"	Deal No Deal "Small Town, Big Dreams"	Deal No Deal "Small Town, Big Dreams"		Paid Program	Paid Program
40	BRV	(63) Wives NJ "From Turkey With Love"		Housewives NJ "Whine Country"		Wives NJ "Mudslinging in Mexico"	Wives NJ "Camels, Cabo and Catfights"	Wives NJ "Camels, Cabo and Catfights"	Sweet Home "Millennial Mansion"	Sweet Home "Millennial Mansion"		Watch What (N)	Housewives NJ
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) McLintock! ("63) John Wayne.		(1:15) *** The Quiet Man (1952, Romance) Maureen O'Hara, Barry Fitzgerald, John Wayne.			(45) *** The Black Swan (42) Maureen O'Hara, Anthony Quinn, Tyrone Power.	(45) *** The Black Swan (42) Maureen O'Hara, Anthony Quinn, Tyrone Power.	Deadly Class "Snake Pit" (N)	Deadly Class "Snake Pit" (N)		The Lost World: Jurassic Park	
42	SYFY	(65) (05) *** Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.				The Magicians "Loot, Found, ... Ed" (N)	The Magicians "Loot, Found, ... Ed" (N)	The Magicians "Loot, Found, ... Ed" (N)	Deadly Class "Snake Pit" (N)	Deadly Class "Snake Pit" (N)		The Lost World: Jurassic Park	
43	RFD	(62) Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	WesternSport	Cash Cowboys	Cash Cowboys		Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments

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