

(1) Peace Process...

"As I told the UN Security Council less than two weeks ago, the presidential elections scheduled for 28 September will be a key moment to reaffirm the legitimacy of Afghanistan's democratic political structure. This vital political foundation needs to be laid to ensure that the vote will be credible and the outcome accepted," he said.

All participants in the process - candidates, supporters, government officials, civil society organizations, national security forces, political leaders, political parties, media, the election management bodies and voters - have an important role and collective responsibility to ensure that the process is credible and transparent.

Afghanistan cannot afford a contentious and protracted post-election crisis that could result in a president with brittle democratic and domestic legitimacy, as this would harm the new president's ability to bring the Afghan people together in a meaningful and representative peace process.

In addition to fully supporting the efforts of Afghanistan's electoral management bodies with technical guidance through the 28 September presidential elections, the United Nations will continue to work to support all peace efforts, which are of utmost importance. Attaining peace will require the efforts of many, but with the international community's support for Afghanistan's full ownership of the process, I am cautiously optimistic that we are moving in the right direction. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan Govt ...

mission in Afghanistan emphasizes that the upcoming presidential elections and peace process are top priorities for the United Nations.

"Let me be clear: Neither process should be harmed or held back by the other; both processes must move forward with the full force and commitment of all stakeholders," Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of the UN mission said in a statement on Sunday. (ATN)

(3) Taliban Accused...

However, the Taliban rejected the allegations and their spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi told Pajhwok the Taliban never destroyed any road intentionally. He said it was possible some roads might have been destroyed during clashes. (Pajhwok)

(4) Taliban's ...

confirmed the overnight airstrike and said some insurgents were killed. However, he did not give a specific figure. The source also verified the killing of Mullah Turabi, Rassoul Jan and Mullah Najeeb. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has said nothing about the airstrike but claimed dozens of security forces suffered casualties in attacks in different provinces, including Balkh. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pakistan to ...

Afghan flights brings \$8 million monthly loss to aviation companies in Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(6) MWA Calls...

election bodies and the refugees ministry three weeks ago but there has been no response," he said.

He said the purpose of this press conference was to send his message to the authorities concerned. "Our demand is that some families who recently returned from Iran and Pakistan should not be deprived of their right to vote." Nelab Zafar, MWA executive head, said in case their recommendations were ignored, they planned even greater advocacy for the rights of migrants. She said the large distance between repatriates and polling stations was a challenge and said polling stations should be situated in areas accessible by the refugees.

She presented a resolution from the MWA, which asked the government to organize a mechanism through which repatriates were able to cast their votes in the upcoming polls.

It asked election watchdogs to pay greater attention to the role and participation of refugees in the upcoming presidential polls. It also warned of protests if the government ignored their demands. (Pajhwok)

(7) Ghani Slams...

Maroof is a remote and the most insecure district in Kandahar and more parts of it are under Taliban's influence. (Tolo news)

(8) FMIC Celebrated...

team of FMIC, doctors, nurses and support staff. The CEO Dr. Nayamat Shah presented gifts to the babies on behalf of FMIC and finally all the participants joined cake cutting ceremony amidst cheers and birthday wishes for the babies. At the end, Dr. Abdul Bashir Sakhizada FMIC Administrator HR and Admin, thanked all the participants specially the babies and their family for making it a memorable day in the history of FMIC. (PR)

(9) Hand-Made...

they would sell up to 50 pairs of shoes a day about two years ago when the security situation was better and Chinese products were not imported, but now their sales had reduced to less than 10 pairs.

Five other people, who also have similar factories in Sar-i-Pul, held similar complaints and asked the government to support domestic industry and help its promotion.

Hashmatullah, a civil society activist in Sar-i-Pul, acknowledged depression of local footwear factories and accused the government of negligence in this regard.

Meanwhile, Ramazan Ali Hussaini, head of labor and social affairs department of Sar-i-Pul, expressed concern about the local factories situation and said soon a labor council would be created for supporting domestic manufacturers. (Pajhwok)

(10) Insecurity...

Rohullah Ahmadzai, said efforts are underway to overcome the "tough situation" in Logar's district.

"The Defense and Security Forces have special and proper plans on hand to overcome the problem," he told TOLONews on Saturday, June 29. (Tolo news)

(11) 14 Policemen ...

wounded and 22 captured alive. He claimed a tank was destroyed and a number of weapons and ammunition were seized by the rebels. (Pajhwok)

(12) Heratis Worried ...

Meanwhile, Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the complaints but said the government was in strong control of the mentioned districts. (Pajhwok)

(13) Security Personnel...

attack on Qarmaqu district centre on Maimana-Jawzjan Highway, according to credible sources.

The Taliban captured a Humvee vehicle and 7,000 bullets, the source said. Police acknowledged the Taliban attack on Qarmoqu district and said the Taliban control the main district bazaar and security personnel inside the district building were besieged. (Pajhwok)

(14) Trump Makes...

stepped in front of Kim and Trump to take a few snapshots, only to face a barrage of screaming protests from the US press pool.

Both heads of state met last in February in Hanoi, Vietnam, but the talks were considered a failure and the summit was cut short. Pyongyang claimed that Washington was to blame for the unsuccessful meeting. That said, the two leaders have since maintained an ongoing and apparently amiable written correspondence. Trump has repeatedly praised Kim's letters, describing the most recent message he received from the North Korean leader as "beautiful." Before departing for their historic meeting on Sunday, Trump also told journalists that he shared a "certain chemistry" with Kim. That said, the US leader was in "no rush" to lift sanctions or alter Washington's policy with regards to North Korea.

"Let's see what happens. We have a long way to go. But I'm in no rush," he said. (RT)

(15) At G20, Xi...

G20 leaders on the sidelines of the summit, as he noted that the world economy is once again at a crossroads 10 years after the global financial crisis.

Echoing his remarks, other G20 leaders

also sent a clear and strong message to the world on upholding multilateralism and an open world economy to renew global confidence in trade liberalization and economic globalization.

"A free and open economy is the foundation of global peace and prosperity...While anxiety and discontent with abrupt changes due to globalization can at times generate the temptation for protectionism, bringing about sharp confrontation between states," said Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the host.

"Now is the time we send out a strong message on the maintenance and strengthening of free, fair and non-discriminatory trading system," he added. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker noted that issues like climate change, sustainable development, terrorism, trade and global economic growth cut across boundaries, societies and economies, and require a concerted, comprehensive response within the framework of a multilateral rules-based system.

"Multilateralism is in the Europe's DNA. By being united and working together, we make ourselves individually and collectively stronger," said Juncker in a message to the summit.

According to Swaran Singh, a professor from the School of International Studies at the Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, "Xi's much anticipated speech at Osaka G20 summit aptly provides a direction for improving global trading system" to avoid "being myopic and guided by short-term interests."

"China is today seen as a major locomotive for providing momentum to ensuring trust in global trading systems," he said.

Echoing Singh's remarks, Hugo Dobson, head of the School of East Asian Studies at the Sheffield University in Britain, also saw China as the champion of multilateralism and the global trading system.

On China's ongoing efforts in this regard, Dobson said "it was already evident when China held the G20 presidency in 2016 that it was transitioning from a rule taker to a rule maker that seeks to shape international norms rather than just respond to them."

"So, China appears to be continuing along this trajectory," he told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

(16) Japan's Abe...

diversify the economy of the world's top oil exporter and create jobs.

"Saudi wants to do the utmost to continue our old - but new - strong partnership with Japan," the crown prince told Abe through an interpreter. (Reuters)

(17) Anything to Cut...

because the code was not done correctly.

The American aerospace giant is in hot water following two fatal 737 MAX crashes which claimed a total of 346 lives. Both the Lion Air crash in Indonesia and the Ethiopian Airlines disasters were linked to the improper work of the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), which was designed to prevent the plane from stalling, but instead sent the aircraft into nosedives.

While both Boeing and HTC stressed that subcontractors were not involved in developing either the notorious MCAS nor the critical cockpit warning system, Bloomberg claims that third-party engineers did participate in some of the 737 MAX's software development. At least one HTC employer apparently claimed in their resume that they had come up with a "quick work-around" that helped "resolve [a] production issue" that could have caused delays and cost Boeing a lot of money. "Boeing was doing all kinds of things, everything you can imagine, to reduce cost, including moving work from Puget Sound [outside of Seattle, Washington] because we'd become very expensive here," a former Boeing flight controls engineer, Rick Ludtke, told the publication.

In addition to saving costs and production time, the involvement of Indian companies in particular "appeared to pay other dividends" for the American corporation, which was able to secure multi-billion-dollar contracts with the Indian military and commercial air-

lines, according to the report. (RT)

(18) After Decades...

loophole to hunt whales for "scientific" purposes.

Critics accused Japan of effectively carrying out stealth whaling, saying the hunts had no scientific value, while Tokyo continued to push for permission to resume commercial whaling outright.

But last year it announced it would simply withdraw from the IWC and no longer comply with its decades-old ban on commercial killing of the ocean giants.

The decision comes into effect from July 1, when a flotilla of ships that once carried out whaling for "scientific research" will set sail from the Shimono-seki port in western Japan.

Elsewhere, five small whaling boats from across the country will gather in Kushiro port in northern Japan and start hunting minke for about a week in a symbolic event celebrating the resumption of the practice.

- 'Heart full of hope' -

"We are very excited at the resumption of commercial whaling," Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-Type Whaling Association, told AFP ahead of the departure.

"My heart is full of hope," added Kai, who belongs to a fisheries cooperative in Taiji in Wakayama prefecture, an area known for both whale and dolphin hunting.

Japan's decision in December to withdraw from the IWC sparked a firestorm of criticism from environmentalists and anti-whaling countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

It came after years of failed attempts by Tokyo to convince the IWC to allow it to resume commercial whaling, arguing that stocks of certain species were now sufficient to support renewed hunting. (AFP)

(19) India's PM ...

The specter of a crisis this year comes after drought in some parts of India in 2018 destroyed crops, ravaged livestock, exhausted reservoirs, leaving some cities and industries with little water.

"There is no one formula to deal with the water crisis across the country," Modi said, adding that he had written to scores of village chiefs across the country about the need to conserve water earlier this month.

The prime minister said there was a need to create public awareness about water conservation and explore traditional water management methods, in the much the same way the "Clean India" mission to end open defecation, started in 2014, had.

However, Modi did not outline any specific measures his government would take to deal with the ongoing situation, which has already affected the sowing of summer crops and forced many communities to buy water from expensive private tankers.

Himanshu Thakkar, co-ordinator of the South Asia Network of Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), said Modi's initiative would have limited impact without the government fixing problems like rampant groundwater usage.

A key source of water, groundwater levels in 52% of wells monitored nationwide were lower in 2018 compared to last decade's average, the country's water resources minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told parliament this week. (Reuters)

(20) A Small, But ...

tourists," Yim said, referring to the attitude of some Hong Kongers to mainland visitors, who are often resented for their perceived poor manners.

"I feel incapable to change the regime, but I am also unable to accept this sort of behavior."

Concern in Hong Kong about Chinese control has escalated again this month with massive protests against legislation that would allow people in the territory to be extradited to mainland China for trial, a backlash that led Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam to shelve the bill.

"Recently, we've been getting a lot of inquiries," says Kitty Wong, referring to their status as something of a point of contact for Hong Kong citizens wanting to consider a life in Taiwan.

Many Hong Kong people ask about the

possibility of gaining citizenship in Taiwan as investors, she said.

The number of people granted Taiwan residency from Hong Kong and neighboring Macau, a former Portuguese enclave also given special autonomy under Chinese rule, has more than doubled to 1,267 in 2018 from a decade ago, official data shows.

The trend spiked in the two years after 2014, when big protests calling for full democracy paralyzed parts of Hong Kong for months.

In the first four months of 2019, immigration to Taiwan jumped 40% from a year earlier to about 400. (Reuters)

(21) Cool Reprieve...

The mercury was set to start dropping for France and Spain from Sunday, but still rise in Germany, with temperatures as high as 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in some places before cooling down from Monday.

On Saturday night in Spain, firefighters were battling high flames in strong winds and blistering heat soon after they managed to contain another inferno in nearly 72 hours.

A fire that started Friday in the central Spanish town of Almorox burnt at least 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres), spilling over into the Madrid region and forcing the evacuation of a village, emergency services said.

In France, fires have razed about 600 hectares and dozens of houses in the Gard department in the country's south.

- Like a 'blowtorch' -

This is the same region where a new French record of 45.9 degrees Celsius was set Friday, prompting the Meteo France weather service to issue its highest alert level of red for the first time.

Winegrowers in the south of France said their precious crops have been badly burnt.

"Some vines seem to have been hit with a blowtorch," Jerome Despey said, while Catherine Bernard likened it to the effects of a hairdryer.

"I've been a winegrower for 30 years. I have never seen a vine burnt by a sudden onset of heat like yesterday," Despey added.

France is the seventh European country to ever register a plus 45-degree temperature, along with Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece and North Macedonia, Meteo France said. (AFP)

(22) Philippines Trash...

proceed to incinerate the waste. "It's a bit of a unique material," general manager of solid waste service for Metro Vancouver, Paul Henderson, told local media.

We've had to work through safe operating procedures for how to receive this, because it's been sitting in the Philippines for so long.

Despite environmental concerns, burning the waste would be a way better option than eating it for dinner, as President Rodrigo Duterte had suggested before shipping the decaying trash back:

Prepare a grand reception. Eat it if you want to.

The waste was exported to the Philippines between 2013 and 2014, but it did not meet the government's environmental standards. In May, Duterte finally ordered the trash to be returned forcefully after Canada had stalled for years and missed a deadline to resolve the issue. (RT)

(23) Palestinians Release...

all who attended the workshop & anyone else who wants a better future for the Palestinians," he wrote on Twitter. In Bahrain, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner revealed the economic part of the plan, promising \$50 billion in projects and investments aimed at helping the Palestinians and neighboring Arab countries. The Palestinian leadership says the economic plan should not pre-empt a political settlement.

Addressing his Cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the economic plan and criticized the Palestinians' rejection and arrest of Abu Mayala.

"This is not how those who want to promote peace act," he said. (AP)