

(1) Trump Says He is...

U.S. special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad held a seventh round of peace talks on Monday with the Taliban in Qatar, aimed at bringing the 18-year-old war to an end.

The focus of the peace talks has been a Taliban demand that foreign forces leave and a U.S. demand for a guarantee that Afghanistan will not be used as a base for attacks elsewhere.

The United States went to war in Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and the Pentagon, seeking to oust the Taliban militants harbouring Saudi-born al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who led plans to carry out the attacks. About 2,400 U.S. forces have been killed in the conflict. (Reuters)

(2) Afghan Govt ...

US special representative for Afghan peace Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad thanked Germany and Qatar for agreeing to host the upcoming dialogue.

Khalilzad tweeted on Tuesday the dialogue was an essential element of the peace framework and an important step in advancing the Afghan peace process.

The summit was announced on July 1 after the militant group claimed responsibility for a deadly bombing and gun attack in Kabul.

The assault on a government building killed at least six people and wounded 105. Five militants were also killed in an hours-long gunbattle with Afghan security forces.

The assault was condemned as "barbarous" by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who called on the Taliban to stop attacking civilians but also said that Washington remained committed to the peace process.

An earlier attempt at intra-Afghan dialogue in Qatar failed in April due to disagreements over who would participate.

The Taliban have said they will not negotiate with the Afghan government until foreign forces have been withdrawn.

In a televised interview broadcast on July 1, U.S. President Donald Trump described Afghanistan as a "lab for terrorists." "I call it the Harvard of terrorists," Trump said about Afghanistan, referring to the prestigious US university.

The interview with Fox News was recorded before the Taliban attack in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(3) UN Vows Probe...

who planned and launched it at that time showed a reckless disregard for the safety of innocent lives. International humanitarian law explicitly prohibits indiscriminate attacks where civilians are present and requires all parties to uphold their obligations to avoid harm to civilians at all times.

"It is particularly egregious that a premeditated act of extreme violence was conducted without regard to the safety of civilians," said Yamamoto. "UN staff were at hospitals in the immediate aftermath of the attack, and I have been deeply saddened by reports of many wounded children there, along with the photos of students still clutching their schoolbooks as they are moved into ambulances."

UNAMA's human rights team continues to look into the full impact of the attack yesterday, with preliminary figures standing at more than 100 civilian casualties, the majority of whom were injured. Among those injured were media workers, students and other civilians. These preliminary figures are expected to rise.

"These civilian casualties are simply unacceptable, especially the number of children harmed in this incident; the United Nations renews its call for an immediate and peaceful settlement to the conflict to end

the suffering of the Afghan people," said Yamamoto. "All parties can and should do their utmost to protect civilians from harm, including by making concrete progress toward peace." (Tolo news)

(4) 400 Afghan ...

In 2014, the Afghan government committed to increase the number of women in the civil service from 22 percent to 30 percent by 2020. By hiring qualified and trained women, the government will cultivate a civil service that is more responsive to the needs of its citizens.

Since 2001, the U.S. placed a top priority on supporting women's empowerment as the most effective investment for accelerating economic growth and achieving sustainable peace. (PR)

(5) Number of ...

arrested and replaced.

Mubariz said big land grabbers had managed to escape the province but efforts were underway to detain all land grabbers.

He said the ongoing wave of insecurity in Nangarhar stemmed from lack of professional personnel but now they had devised a plan in this regard as well. (Pajhwok)

(6) Wolesi Jirga ...

who were candidates for the deputy secretary position, all failed to win the seat.

Ramazan said a second round of vote for the deputy secretary would be between Zaki and Karyab who secured highest votes yesterday. (Pajhwok)

(7) Millions of Afghanis ...

bank a private property of Khalil Sediq?," he asked.

Khalil Sidiqi, the central bank governor, resigned his post on June 17 on medical grounds. His resignation has been approved but based on constitutional provisions, he should work until July 16.

He said the issue should have been discussed with the second deputy head of the bank, Mohammad Qasim Rahimi, but he was on a foreign trip.

Pajhwok contacted Younis Sadat and shared the issue with him. He said that all questions should be sent to him via email and he or his spokesman would answer them.

After Pajhwok emailed the questions to him, Sadat said he would provide details next Sunday.

The allocation of four million afghanis for the bank's teams comes as 54 percent of Afghanistan's population is living below the poverty line.

Last year, President Ashraf Ghani called the situation shameful and said: "When poverty hits more than 50 percent of Afghans, how society will achieve stability? Poverty is the enemy of prosperity."

Based on surveys, those who earn less than 100 afghanis on a daily basis are below the poverty line.

Syed Massoud, a professor at Kabul University's Economics Faculty, said banks were responsible for spending part of their revenue on the social sector.

But in an impoverished country like Afghanistan, he believed, spending money on sports did not suit the central bank.

A person willfully consuming the budget violated the law and misused his authority, the professor remarked, stressing interrogation for investigating such individuals.

Prof. Massoud added DAB capital belonged to all citizens and unfair spending of it actually harmed the people.

Not only the central bank but all government departments should avoid spending money unfairly the teacher said. They should use funds for the insurance of teachers, distribution of coupons and other important requirements.

Gulalai Alamyar, a teacher at Khwaja Rawash School in Kabul, said allocating more than four million

afghanis to sportspeople was unfair. She asked the government to increase salaries of teachers, who found it hard to meet their basic needs.

She receives 13,000 afghanis a month as a fourth grade teacher. Even low-ranking teachers get 7,000 afghanis on a monthly basis.

According to her, there is a shortage of teachers in the country, and the government can employ about 50 teachers each year by utilizing four million afghanis.

Gulalai called on the government to prevent such spending as did not benefit the masses.

The Ministry of Education, says 3.7 million children are not going to school. Poverty, lack of teachers and insecurity are the main reasons for children's deprivation of education. (Pajhwok)

(8) Germany, Qatar...

Afghan peace process.

Khalilzad also said that agreeing to resolve political differences without force is what is needed to learn from the tragedy of the last 40 years. "I wish participants success," he concluded. (Tolo news)

(9) 3,800 Men ...

before or had reached the legal age recently or who had not attached stickers to their ID cards.

Abdullah Afghan, a resident of Maroof district, said one of the huge problems that marred the voter registration in their district was insecurity.

He only the district center was under government control and the rest of the district was ruled by rebels so he could not register as voter.

Mohammadullah, a resident of Mirwais Mena area of Kandahar City, said people were unaware about the voter registration process until the last day of the process.

But Hashim Khan Durrani rejected his claim and said they had worked a lot for public awareness.

He said they had launched workshops before the voter registration process in city and districts and published advertisements through local radios.

He acknowledged problems in insecure districts. (Pajhwok)

(10) 37 People...

the cases after investigation and litigation. Seven of the convicts including a woman were trying to traffic drugs in their stomachs and travel bags from Hamid Karzai International Airport to India, the source said.

This comes as 22 people involved in 17 drug smuggling cases were sentenced to different jail terms over the last two weeks. (Pajhwok)

(11) 30 Taliban ...

He said telephonic connection between the district and the provincial capital had been disconnected and they currently used walkie-talkie to communicate. (Pajhwok)

(12) Above 870 Girls ...

He said, "We have to do more work to convince the Taliban militants and people to allow girls to get education in the province."

Mir Ahmad Aka, a resident of Musa Qala district, said their district had no facility for girls' education. He said girls were always deprived of education due to security and other issues. (Pajhwok)

(13) Newt Gingrich...

said the Europeans are not pushing back on Tehran because of a desire from big companies to maintain business ties in Iran. He called on the administration to urge China, India and Japan to put pressure on Iran, since those countries rely on Iranian oil imports. (Fox News)

(14) Turkey Orders...

vowed to eradicate Gulen's network in the country.

Police based in Izmir were looking for 42 suspects there and in 17 other provinces, Anadolu said. Authori-

ties believed members of Gulen's network had used pay phones to contact the suspects, it added.

Authorities in Konya were looking for another 40 suspects, including soldiers on active duty, there and in 25 other provinces, the news agency reported.

Istanbul's prosecutors office said another 40 suspects including high ranking military personnel were being sought in the city and 14 other provinces. (Reuters)

(15) Australian Parliament...

majority, holding 78 seats in the 151-seat House of Representatives where parties need a majority to form government.

Australia's central bank last month last month cut its benchmark interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to a record low of 1.25% in the first rate change in almost three years.

The Reserve Bank of Australia on Tuesday reduced the rate further to 1%. (AP)

(16) India's Congress...

position he held since succeeding his mother, Sonia Gandhi, in late 2017.

"He will never change his mind," the aide said, requesting anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"He feels that the way forward is not him continuing as Congress president ... and let somebody outside the Gandhi family be Congress president," the aide said, adding the party cannot "just depend on one person, one family".

Gandhi will remain in politics to help rebuild Congress from the ground up, the aide said, rather than stay on as leader due to his family's political lineage.

The Nehru-Gandhi family has dominated the party, and through it Indian politics for decades, producing three prime ministers, but Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have accused Congress of promoting "dynasty" politics.

The Modi-led BJP has trounced Congress in two successive general elections, winning 303 out of 542 parliament seats in 2019, and wresting away Gandhi's own parliament seat in a family borough in northern India. (Reuters)

(17) OPEC Inks...

prompting Iran to warn that OPEC could "die" if it were reduced to a rubber stamp for decisions made in advance.

However, Iran did support the extension of production cuts which will run until March 2020.

Tuesday's meeting of OPEC+ -- a grouping that comprises 24 crude producers including Russia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Mexico -- is also expected to approve the collective production limits.

Monday's gathering of OPEC ministers ran almost five hours late into the evening as ministers discussed the details of the new charter.

Iran was more sceptical of the idea and its oil minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said on leaving the meeting that the charter would have "no impact on OPEC and its mechanism or decision taking".

Also speaking late Monday, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the charter would allow OPEC and non-OPEC countries to establish "a structure for technical meetings, ministry meetings, regular summits" with the OPEC secretariat in Vienna acting as "the main coordinator".

While Monday's agreement in Vienna had initially sent oil prices surging, on Tuesday they were more subdued amid fresh worries over the global economic outlook. (AFP)

(18) Riot Police ...

entered, avoiding a confrontation and giving them the run of the building.

Demonstrators stood on lawmak-

ers' desks and painted over the territory's emblem on a wall. The crowd also wrote slogans calling for a democratic election of the city's leader and denouncing the extradition legislation. Many wore yellow and white helmets, face masks and the black T-shirts that have become their uniform.

Police then announced that they would soon move in. A spokesman had earlier broadcast a warning that "appropriate force" would be used.

Officers approached shortly after midnight and entered the legislative chambers after protesters had already left. There was no immediate word on any arrests or injuries.

The actions prompted organizers of a separate peaceful march against the extradition bill to change the endpoint of their protest from the legislature to a nearby park, after police asked them to call it off or change the route. Police wanted the march to end earlier in the Wan Chai district, but organizers said that would leave out many people who planned to join the march along the way.

Police estimated 190,000 people joined the peaceful march, the third major one in as many weeks. Organizers estimated the number at 550,000. The extradition proposal has heightened fears of eroding freedoms in the territory, which Britain returned to China on July 1, 1997. Debate on the measure has been suspended indefinitely. Protesters want the bills formally withdrawn and Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, to resign. (AP)

(19) Taiwan's Manufacturing...

2.0 percentage points from the previous month to 52 in June, according to the CIER. Among the four major sub-indices in the NMI, business activity/production, new orders and employment continued to expand while suppliers' deliveries dropped. (Xinhua)

(20) Thailand's Largest...

major airport is rising to 200,000 a day during the winter season that starts in October, compared to the last year's figure of about 180,000 a day, said Sutteerawat.

Wing Commander Sutteerawat noted that Chinese tourists have also started returning to Thailand and several Chinese airlines have requested new landing slots.

"A few have been rejected due to too tight schedules," said the commander. He said 80 percent of the passengers at the airport are foreign visitors. "The number of foreign arrivals is growing but the facilities of the airport should be upgraded to accommodate more planes and passengers." The director said a project to build a satellite terminal is progressing, which will increase the airport's handling capacity by 15 million passengers a year. (Xinhua)

(21) Trump Signs ...

Trump expressed satisfaction with the bill, but made clear he was dissatisfied with the state of illegal immigration in the United States. He suggested he would continue with plans for a nationwide immigration sweep to deport people living the United States illegally, including families.

Trump delayed the raids about a week ago. The move came after Pelosi urged Trump to call them off. Immigration and Customs Enforcement leaders had also expressed serious concerns that officers' safety would be in jeopardy because too many details about the raids had been made public.

"After July 4th, a lot of people are going to be brought back out," Trump threatened. "ICE is going to be apprehending them and bringing them back."

Trump dismissed the conditions that most people seeking asylum in the U.S. face in their home countries. He said they are lodging "frivolous asylum claims." (AP)