

(1) The Hour Has...

all Afghans, sit together and work through the differences that have fueled the conflict, that driven the conflict for so many years. From our perspective that means an intra-Afghan dialogue that includes everyone with society and also formal intra-Afghan negotiations," the US Ambassador to Kabul John Bass said.

This comes after Germany's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Markus Potzel, said in a statement on Tuesday that as part of their efforts to support the peace process in Afghanistan, Germany and Qatar will convene an Intra-Afghan Dialogue Conference to be held in Doha on 7 and 8 July 2019. (Tolo news)

(2) Afghanistan's ...

Ahamdi said the country's exports would further grow with completion of railroad projects. He said turning Afghanistan into an exporting country from importing one had been the unity government's top priority.

The minister added the government had recently introduced many facilities to companies in obtaining operational licenses and his ministry's focus had been on development of industry and investment. He said two industrial parks existed in Mazar-i-Sharif and his ministry would take crucial steps to protect and expand the parks.

Ahmadi also said trade promotion required increased public-private sectors cooperation.

Meanwhile, Balkh governor Mohammad Ishaq Rahguzar said Balkh was a safe place for investment and foreign and local traders evinced interest in making investments in the province.

However, he said insecurity had increased in a number of Balkh district and neighboring provinces, but efforts were underway to control the situation.

The governor said those threatening traders with violence would be dealt with sternly.

Speaking on the occasion, trader Nasim Amini said the government should assist traders in obtaining loan and other financial help.

He said so far businessmen were using their own capital and the government had not fulfilled most of its promises with industrialists. (Pajhwok)

(3) Compromise...

be prepared to compromise. The United States, our NATO allies, our other partners - we cannot solve the problems that divide so many Afghans today."

"Only you can do that - working together. We cannot guarantee credible results from presidential elections - only you can do that. And we cannot - and will not - decide where and how you must be prepared to compromise with the Taliban - and where they must be prepared to compromise with you - to bring this conflict to an end," he maintained.

The envoy reiterated that the Americans would remain Afghanistan's friend and partner. "We will support Afghan men and women who come together to address these tough problems, and to make the hard choices to achieve peace. Because those who have lost their lives, through decades of conflict and in recent tragic events, deserve this effort to find common ground." Recalling history, Bass said, the Afghans had shown many times throughout history how committed they had been to govern themselves, free from foreign interference.

The Afghans bravely confronted and defeated the Soviet Union's aggression. "But I think most of you would agree that many of Afghanistan's problems today come from within - from the inability of many Afghans to see your diversity as a strength; to find common ground and purpose supporting the national interest along with one's community and family; and to be prepared

to compromise and work together to benefit all Afghans."

He quoted Benjamin Franklin as saying "Compromisers do not make great heroes, but they do make great democracies."

He said Afghanistan had sent countless heroes to the field in the past 40 years, but it had not created enough compromisers to safeguard the republic for the next 40 years. (Pajhwok)

(4) Pakistani Premier...

after Pakistan hosted dozens of Afghan political leaders to discuss the peace process and ways to move it forward.

The VOA said in a report on Thursday that an Afghan official confirmed, on the condition of anonymity, that the move has the Afghan government's consent.

This comes as the US and the Taliban are holding the seventh round of their talks in Doha where the two sides are expected to reach an agreement on four key issues under debate. (Tolo news)

(5) Turkey Acquires ...

The foundation also establishes schools and education centers abroad.

FETO and its U.S.-based leader Fetullah Gulen orchestrated the defeated coup of July 15, 2016 in Turkey, which left 251 people martyred and nearly 2,200 injured.

Ankara also accuses FETO of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police, and judiciary.

The terror group has a considerable presence abroad, including private schools which serve as a revenue stream for the terror group. (AA)

(6) Candidates ...

insult each other in their statements, which is against the electoral law, election commission also does not take any action on the regard, they should be fined and removed from the list according to the law," she said.

However, she did not name any candidate.

On the other hand, Saadat said the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) should immediately reveal the results of the voter registration process and take action for prevention of earlier campaigns.

She said the Independent Election Commission (IEC) had the plan to register two million voters, but it failed to do so due to security problems in the country and low awareness provided to people.

About the short time remaining to go for the presidential election, she said, "We seriously ask the international community to clarify whether their priority is peace or election or both would go together."

This comes as UNAMA deputy head during a visit to southeastern Paktia province on Thursday said that both election and peace process would go simultaneously. (Pajhwok)

(7) Insecurity Increases in ...

Local officials said that the districts of Cheshat, Pashtun Zarghoon, and Gulran in Herat were recently attacked by the Taliban and according to the provincial governor, foreign fighters were also among them.

"The number of foreign terrorists has increased because the enemy has lost its morale and has no option but to seek the help of those countries which are supporting them," the Herat governor Abdul Qayum Rahimi said.

However, Herat Police Chief, Gen. Aminullah Amarkhail, said that the security forces have been able to reduce the threats.

"We supported Parsi district and the security forces are there. We launched an operation in Pashtun Zarghoon district for one week and reduced the threats there," Amarkhail said.

In Ghor, as another main province in the west of Afghanistan, six districts have witnessed the Taliban's presence and are under threat.

"The western and northwestern parts of Ghor province are under threat by the Taliban over the past ten days but we have not seen any step by the security forces to overcome the concerns," said Abdul Hamid Natiqi, member of Ghor Provincial Council.

"Security forces checkpoints have relocated in some areas and so far, we have not received any report about harm to the security forces," said Abdulhai Khatibi, a spokesman for Ghor governor.

Meanwhile, some members of Farah Provincial Council said that the Taliban has arrived on the outskirts of the city of Farah and are threatening the center of the province.

"The militants have increased their pressure... Farah residents are very much concerned about this," said Shah Mahmood Naeemi, deputy head of Farah Provincial Council.

Critics said that there is a need for more attention to the security of the west zone by the relevant institutions. (Tolo news)

(8) Newly-Built 350...

beds were made available for treatment.

He urged the authorities concerned to pay special attention to Kandahar people's healthcare services and open all the 350 beds of the hospital. (Pajhwok)

(9) Pre-Hajj Operation to ...

According to the statement, Kam Air had received permission from Saudi government while the Arian Airlines was not yet gain permission.

The CAA asked the Ariana Airlines to get Saudi's permission and be ready for flights as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

(10) Nearly 700 Tonnes...

position at an exhibition held in Kabul, but despite the commitment of the agriculture ministry, not steps could be taken to improve the honey production in the province. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban Release ...

investigation in this regard. According to Wijdan, four soldiers were also among the released ANA personnel, who had gone missing on the day when militants captured the district.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the release of 42 soldiers on Wednesday. (Pajhwok)

(12) Putin Asks...

questions of relevance to the life of the Catholic Church in Russia," the Vatican said in a statement. It said they also discussed "the ecological question and various themes relating to current international affairs, with particular reference to Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela."

The meeting came a day before Catholic leaders from Ukraine gather at the Holy See to discuss the continuing conflict in their country and the fallout from the schism between the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches. The Vatican said the aim is to lend support "in the delicate situation in which Ukraine finds itself."

Last year, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine formally split from the Russian Orthodox Church in a schism recognized by the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. The push for a full-fledged and independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church was bolstered by fighting in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russia-backed rebels. (AP)

(13) Deadly India...

excuses and ignoring corruption and mismanagement by local authorities.

"You want to save a big, corrupt shark and blaming poor crabs? This cannot be tolerated. There must be an inquiry and he must be punished," spokesperson for the Nationalist Congress Party Nawab Malik said. (RT)

(14) 'Wolf of Wall...

five counts of money laundering and could face up to five years in

prison, a fine or both, on each count if he is convicted.

Najib set up the 1MDB fund to finance development in Malaysia when he took office in 2009, but it accumulated billions in debts and U.S. investigators allege at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib's associates.

Public anger over the alleged corruption contributed to the shocking election defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 2018, and the new government reopened investigations that had been stifled while Najib was in office.

Najib is currently on trial for alleged criminal breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering linked to 1MDB. He denies the charges. His wife and Riza's mother, Rosmah Mansor, also has pleaded not guilty to money laundering and tax evasion related to 1MDB but her trial date has not been set.

Riza's arraignment came a year after he was questioned by Malaysia's anti-graft agency. U.S. investigators say Red Granite used money stolen from 1MDB to finance Hollywood films. Red Granite has paid the U.S. government \$60 million to settle claims it benefited from the 1MDB scandal, and the U.S. returned the money to Malaysia.

Riza's sister, Nooryana Najwa, has slammed the legal action against her brother.

"Despite the settlement in the U.S. and the fact that alleged wrongdoings occurred entirely outside of Malaysia, the MACC decides to press charges after a whole year of leaving this case in cold storage. He is not a criminal," she wrote on Instagram, accompanied by a picture of her with Riza taken before his arrest. (AP)

(15) Greece: 4th...

other such activities outdoors, such as setting campfires, is banned in Greece from May 1-Oct. 1 as part of measures to prevent forest fires. Wildfires are common in Greece during the hot, dry summer months. Last year, the country's deadliest fire killed 101 people in the seaside settlement of Mati outside of Athens, including many who drowned as they tried to swim away from intense heat and smoke engulfing beaches. (AP)

(16) Sudan's Protesters ...

people were killed since then, according to the protesters.

In the ensuing weeks, protesters stayed in the streets demanding that the generals hand power to civilian leadership, to no avail.

But early on Friday, the two parties agreed to form a joint sovereign council - previously a sticking point in the talks - to lead the country during a transition period of three years and three months, said the SPA statement.

The council will include five civilians representing the protest movement and five military members. An eleventh seat will go to a civilian chosen by both parties.

A military member will preside over the council during the first 21 months, followed by a civilian member after, according to the statement.

This suggests a significant concession on the part of pro-democracy forces, which had insisted that the sovereign council have only a civilian president. However, the deal did secure another key demand - that protest leaders select the members of a technocratic Cabinet to be formed independently from the generals.

The African Union and Ethiopia made intensive efforts to bring the generals and the protesters back to the negotiating table.

Negotiations resumed earlier this week after tens of thousands of demonstrators flooded the streets of Sudan's main cities over the weekend in the biggest show of numbers since the razing of the protesters' sit-in camp. At least 11 people were

killed in clashes with security forces, according to protest organizers. When news of the deal broke around dawn on Friday, hundreds of protesters returned to the streets dancing, singing and waving Sudanese flags, while passing drivers honked. The military-controlled Al-Sudan television channel played national songs. It also reran excerpts of the press conference announcing the agreement, held jointly by protest and military leaders, which it subtitled "Congratulations to the Sudanese people."

"We hope that the formation of transitional institutions marks the beginning of a new era," said Omer El-Digair, a leader of the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, a political coalition representing the protesters. He spoke at a joint news conference with the military and African mediators following the conclusion of the deal. "We hope it is an era where we can shut off the sound of pistols and destroy for good prisons of arbitrary detention."

According to the SPA statement, the two parties also agreed to launch "a national independent investigation" into the killing of protesters since al-Bashir was ousted, according to the statement.

"I am not fully satisfied but it is a step forward to bring peace to our people," Tarek Abdel Meguid, an FDFC leader, told The Associated Press. (AP)

(17) South Africa...

Gordhan has a number of political enemies who may see Mkhwebane's comments as sufficient reason for Ramaphosa to sack him.

Gordhan's spokesman Adrian Lackay said: "Neither the minister's office nor anyone in his legal team have received any formal notice, correspondence or report from the public protector about alleged findings announced by her."

Gordhan is challenging in court another of Mkhwebane's finding against him. Gordhan's allies have said that her investigations into the minister are politically motivated, a charge that Mkhwebane denies.

Many foreign investors look favourably on Gordhan, who they feel ran a tight ship when he served as finance minister. Previously, Gordhan headed the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for around a decade from 1999.

"The allegation that Mr Gordhan during his tenure as the commissioner of SARS established an intelligence unit in violation of the South African intelligence prescripts is substantiated," Mkhwebane said.

"The establishment of the unit with the approval of Mr Gordhan as the erstwhile accounting officer was in breach of section 209 of the constitution." (Reuters)

(18) No Breakthrough...

it is fully compliant with the INF treaty negotiated by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which eliminated the medium-range missile arsenals of the world's two biggest nuclear powers. "We have not seen any signs of a breakthrough," Stoltenberg told reporters after a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, a closed-door forum that allows for dialogue between the two sides' diplomats and officials.

Stoltenberg said the chances of a resolution were "going down, day by day" but that NATO had not given up on trying to convince Moscow to destroy the SSC-8 ground-launched cruise missile, which it says the treaty ban on land-based missiles with a range of 500 km to 5,500 km (300-3,400 miles).

The breakdown of the treaty, the latest in a growing list of East-West tensions, is of grave concern because medium-range rockets would allow Russia to launch a nuclear attack on Europe at very short notice, Western experts and officials say. (Reuters)