

(1) Delegates...

Dialogue Conference to be held in Doha on 7 and 8 July 2019. "Afghanistan stands at a critical moment of opportunity for progress towards peace," Potzel said, adding that "an essential component of any process leading to this objective will be a direct engagement between Afghans." "Only Afghans themselves can decide the future of their country. An Intra-Afghan Dialogue can help clarify the options and opportunities of such direct engagement," he added. Germany and Qatar hope that this event will contribute to trust-building among key stakeholders, representing a wide spectrum of the Afghan people and society, and thus foster peace and stability in Afghanistan and the wider region. The US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in a tweet on Monday night thanked Germany and Qatar for hosting the July 7-8 intra-Afghan Dialogue Conference and said that this dialogue is an essential element of the four-part peace framework and an important step in advancing the 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)

(2) Top Candidates...

Amir Khan Yar was elected as first deputy speaker with 131 votes while Ahmad Shah Ramadan was elected as second deputy speaker with 119 votes. Today (Saturday) Mirdad Najrabi, a lawmaker from Kapisa province, Abdul Rauf Enami, a lawmaker from Badakhshan province, Zahra Noorzai, a lawmaker from Kabul, Karim Atal from Helmand and Azizullah Ulfati from Jawzjan province contested the election for secretary post. A successful candidate was required to collect 109 votes from the 217 lawmakers present at the house. Speaker Mir Rahman Rahmani said tomorrow there would be a fresh polling between two leading candidates Karim Atal and Abdul Rafu Enami for the secretary position. For deputy secretary position, Javid Sapi, a lawmaker from Kunar, Abdul Naseer Farahi from Farah and Nilofar Jalali from Kunduz contested the election but none was able to get the required votes. There would be fresh elections between leading candidates Sapi and Nelofar to decide the winner, said Rahmani. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghan Forces...

Furthermore, the Afghan Air Force conducted 26 airstrikes to support the ground forces. The statement further added that the security forces conducted the operations in Takhar, Kandahar, Faryab, Zabul, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Uruzgan, Farah, Kunduz, Paktiya, Herat, Ghazni, Kapisa, Helmand, Balkh, Sar-e-Pul and Logar provinces. Meanwhile, the defense ministry said the security forces killed 91 militants during the operations. In addition, the security forces wounded 41 militants during the same operations. The Ministry of Defense also added that the coalition forces also provided support to the Afghan security forces during the operations. (KP)

(4) FIFA Chief Defends...

did not make a PR exercise about how they react. "We thought of the interests of these girls and their families and their safety," he added. "When I am told that some people criticize FIFA, well, you can criticize FIFA for many things and certainly many times you are right to criticize FIFA, but we try to do the best especially in sensitive cases like this. Lindsey was speaking on the sidelines of the launch of 'Fearless Football', an initiative set up by the social enterprise body Association Football Development Project (AFDP) Global and its founder, former FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, aimed at eliminating abuse in the women's game. The former president of the Afghanistan Football Federation, Keramuddin Karim, was banned for life by FIFA last month after its ethics committee found him guilty of abusing his position and sexually abusing female players. Infantino added that the investigation, which began in December, was ongoing and that FIFA was actively working with United Nations agencies to help the victims, many of whom have been resettled in new countries. The Swiss-Italian, who was re-elected unopposed as FIFA president last month, said the political situation in the gulf nation made it a much more delicate case to handle. (Tolo news)

(5) Security Forces...

a firefight which was underway for hours, he added. Tadin Khan did not provide information regarding security forces casualties, but a security source wishing not be named claimed 13 policemen were killed and 30 others injured in the overnight Taliban attack. It was the second deadliest attack, the Taliban staged on Mar-roof district in the past one week. Separately, 10 policemen were killed and 14 others injured in the Taliban attack in Khakrez district. Six militants were killed and eight others injured in the attack. (Pajhwok)

(6) US, Taliban...

put an agreement in jeopardy. Trump, while maintaining that he wants the US to "just get out" of the 18-year mire of a campaign in Afghanistan, has now said he would not do that after all - leaving behind a "very strong" intelligence presence. In an interview to Fox News, Trump said that he still wanted to pull US troops out of Afghanistan, in line with his previous pledge, but cannot do so since the country has turned into a breeding ground for terrorists in the wake of the US intervention in 2001 (Tolo news)

(7) 15 Security...

after a Taliban attack on security check-posts in Saghar area of Ghorian district, said the district chief. Farhad Khadem said efforts under way to find the missing forces. Another source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said 13 PoP personnel were manning the check-posts and six of them were killed and seven others captured by the Taliban due to the attack. The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(8) 5 Civilians...

the overnight raid. He said a

vehicle and some motorcycles were also destroyed in the raid. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on his twitter page wrote that security forces killed five civilians and arrested two others in the overnight raid. (Pajhwok)

(9) US Calls...

had exceeded its allotted 300kg limit of enriched uranium under the deal and that its next step would be to enrich uranium above the allowed 3.67 percent fissile purity by Sunday, and the IAEA confirmed that same day that the stockpile had exceeded the terms set out under the deal.

Zarif pledged to continue casting off those terms until Iran's partners in the accord hold up their end of the bargain.

While the UK, Germany, and France launched the INSTEX payment system last week, allowing trade in food and medicine with Iran while circumventing the US sanctions choking the Iranian economy, Tehran denounced the special purpose vehicle as insufficient because it does not include oil sales. (RT)

(10) Maduro Displays...

supporters into the streets for demonstrations against Maduro and his responsibility for the oil-rich nation's historic collapse. Because of Maduro's rule, more than four million Venezuelans have left the country amid food and medicine shortages and crushing inflation. As head of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, Guaidó claims Maduro's re-election in 2018 to a second, six-year term is invalid because popular political figures were banned from running. Maduro, however, refused to step aside and Guaidó has not been successful in urging the critical mass of soldiers to support his cause.

Guaidó gathered protesters to take to the streets Friday for large demonstrations marking the 208th year of Venezuelan independence from Spain. By midday, thousands joined him as they marched toward the headquarters of a military intelligence agency in Caracas where a navy captain opposed to Maduro was tortured to death a day earlier, according to his wife and attorney. "Today in Venezuela, anyone who continues to support this dictatorship must know that he's an accomplice to the violation of human rights," said Guaidó, urging the military to overcome Maduro's reign. (Fox News)

(11) Otto Warmbier's...

ship was handed over to the US by Indonesia a year after it detained the vessel off its shores with a \$3 million coal shipment - which is only a miniscule portion of what Pyongyang "owes" the Warmbiers. Still, the family said in the statement they are determined to "work tirelessly to seize North Korean assets wherever they may be found." The US authorities say Warmbier, 22 at the time, was tortured during his 17-month detention in a North Korean work camp in 2016, which left him in a coma. Pyongyang has denied the allegations of abuse. A popular theory is that Warmbier contracted a form of food poisoning and then took a sleeping pill and never woke up. The exact cause of death still remains a mystery, since his

parents denied an autopsy of his body, while a coroner's report claimed that the man's body and skin were in "excellent condition."

The new twist in what has become a highly-politicized case comes as Washington and Pyongyang attempt to revive stalled denuclearization talks, primarily through the newly-found rapport between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

The impromptu summit between the two leaders in the demilitarized zone on Sunday was all handshakes and smiles, and saw Trump become the first US president to set foot on North Korean soil. (RT)

(12) Envoy Says...

streets of Sudan's main cities 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.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Wednesday had called on Sudanese authorities to lift restrictions on the internet and properly investigate all acts of violence and allegations of excessive use of force.

Over 250 people have been killed since an uprising erupted against al-Bashir in December, according to protest organizers. The military overthrew the longtime ruler in April, but protesters remained in the streets, fearing the generals intended to cling to power or preserve some form of authoritarian rule. (AP)

(13) Jaguar Land...

automotive sector hit this year by Honda and Ford's <F.N> plans to close factories. Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has highlighted the dangers of a no-deal Brexit and the need to maintain frictionless trade with the European Union, echoing warnings from the industry that just-in-time production could be hit by customs delays and additional bureaucracy.

But it has signed a deal with workers at the Castle Bromwich factory to go from a five-day to a four-day working week with the same amount of hours which should allow the plant to operate more efficiently.

Three of JLR's four European car plants are in Britain, giving it limited capacity elsewhere on the continent.

The other, in Slovakia, only opened last year and is still being ramped up with other models allocated there.

"We are making this investment because the ongoing Brexit uncertainty has left us with no choice, we had to act, for our employees and our business," JLR said.

"We are committed to the UK as our home and will fight to stay here but we need the right deal." Both candidates to replace Prime Minister Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, have both said they are prepared to take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 without a deal, although it is not their preferred option. (Reuters)

(14) UN Envoy...

now seem to be closer to establishing a constitutional committee," he said, thanking Russia for helping the effort. "The constitutional committee should be a door opener to a broader political process, and I also em-

phasized that we need confidence-building measures."

Pedersen said that prisoner releases could help create favorable conditions for further peace settlement efforts.

"One possible confidence-building measure could be the release of substantial number of detainees and more information on missing persons," he said.

"The conflict has obviously been going on for too long, it created deep divisions within the Syrian society and untold suffering," Pedersen said.

Lavrov hailed Pedersen for helping create channels of communication between the Syrian government and the opposition, adding that forming a committee to work on a new constitution would mark a major step in the political process. (AP)

(15) Turkey's Erdogan...

Turkish vessels and interests would be considered targets, after accusing Turkey of helping militias allied with the Tripoli government. Six Turkish nationalists were freed this week after Turkey threatened action.

The LNA also said it deployed more troops to join the Tripoli fighting.

On Friday, its media center posted footage it says shows "military battalions" that would be sent to the front for the first time. The footage showed dozens of armored vehicles moving in the desert under air cover.

The reinforcements came less than two weeks after Hifter's forces were driven out of the strategic town of Gharyan, in a surprise attack by militiamen aligned with the Tripoli government.

The U.N. health agency said the death toll from the fighting around the capital had reached nearly 1000, including 53 who were killed in the airstrike on the Tajoura detention center for migrants.

The World Health Organization said the fighting has wounded over 5,000 others since Hifter launched his offensive on April 4.

Fighters aligned with the government in Tripoli received Turkish-made armored vehicles in May. The LNA said it destroyed Turkish-made drones during the fighting.

In a telephone call Saturday, Erdogan spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the Libyan crisis, among other topics. Hifter is backed by Russia, along with his Arab allies of the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. (AP)

(16) Lebanese Interior...

found the innovation and knowledge center and the economic zone.

Hassan promised to cooperate with security agencies and the Lebanese army to restore the city's security and the confidence in the government.

Hassan also called upon all Lebanese parties to stop bickering which is weighing heavily on the country's economy and prosperity. (Xinhua)

(17) China Claims...

The property testifies to the existence of a regional state with a unified belief system and supported economically by rice-cultivating agriculture in late Neolithic China over 5,000 years ago. It also represents an early urban civilization with complex functions and structures. (Xinhua)