

(1) Peace Should...

Ghani also said that Afghanistan war aspects are complex but using the global experience is must. Ghani said that the presidential elections will be held on time. Referring to his recent visit to Islamabad, Ghani said: "We have opened a new chapter in our relations with Pakistan." (Tolo news)

(2) US Peace ...

progress & hope remaining points will be finalized soon. We have not faced major obstacle so far", he said in a social media post. Meanwhile, the European Union urged the warring sides in Afghanistan on Tuesday the attacks such as the one that took place in Ghazni on Sunday, killing and injuring innocent civilians, must be confined to the past.

"The intra-Afghan Dialogue that concluded yesterday in Doha, Qatar, marks an important step towards achieving the peace the people of Afghanistan deserve and have long demanded", it said in a statement.

Though, the Afghan government was not officially represented at the intra-Afghan talks with the Taliban on Sunday and Monday, a number of top officials from Kabul attended the moot in personal capacity. (AA)

(3) Moscow Hopes ...

sides of the conflict but also for the key political forces of the IRA, without which it will hardly be possible to achieve durable peace," the spokeswoman said. "We hope communication will lay the foundation for a future peace agreement and will more clearly outline the contours of the post-conflict arrangement in Afghanistan."

The Russian Foreign Ministry also welcomed the fact that the inter-Afghanistan negotiating format, initiated by the Afghan diaspora of Russia, a number of other CIS countries and some Asian and European states, "has been continued and received support from the overwhelming majority of the international community." (Agencies)

(4) Kazakhstan ...

of states of the OSCE to Kazakhstan," the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said. Kazakh Foreign Ministry has said that the meeting will increase involvement of the OSCE in resolving the problems and post-conflict rehabilitation in Afghanistan.

OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization which its mandate includes issues such as arm control, promotion of human rights, freedom of the press and fair elections. (Tolo news)

(5) IEC Investigates...

said that the judicial organs should clarify the fate of the former electoral officials who are accused of mismanagement in October parliamentary elections.

He added that unless it will be impossible to bring reform or ensure transparency in the upcoming elections. The Afghan parliamentary elections took nearly seven months until the official was able to announce the final results. (ATN)

(6) 'We are Not ...

and Monday regarding Afghan peace process.

A delegation of over 60 Afghan political figures and officials participated in the conference to discuss peace in Afghanistan. (KP)

(7) Afghan Delegation ...

society, women, and youth with bouquets of flowers.

Some members of the delegation that were interviewed by Ariana News said that the Taliban officials had a soft position during the two-day meeting that ended with an eight-point declaration emphasizing on the reduction of violence.

Ghairat Baheer, member of Hezb-e-Islami party and a participant of the meeting said that he felt the Taliban is eager to find a political settlement to the issue of Afghanistan.

Baheer described the meeting an important step that created hope. However, Laila Jafari, civil society and women's rights activist and a female participant of the Doha meeting said that the Taliban officials did not speak about women's presence and activities in different areas in Afghanistan if they reach to a possible peace agreement.

Apparently, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan is the top priority for the Taliban group.

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman of Taliban's political office told Ariana News correspondent in Doha that the meeting helped and showed that the "Afghan society is thirsty for peace and all Afghans want the end of occupation". (ATN)

(8) Pollution Level ...

had limited personnel and resources and informing a population of five million in Kabul required a more workforce.

He also explained some specific plans for getting rid of pollution and said the programs had been prepared by NEPA in cooperation of relevant organs.

Nisar Ahmad Bahavi, ambassador for Afghanistan environment, said that using plastic bags was one of the reasons of pollution. "If everyone of us use one plastic bag a day, it would become a lot of plastics over a month or a year," he said.

He called using coal and oil other reasons of environmental pollution in Kabul and said that people had to show mercy towards their own kids and not to create illnesses for them by using pollution-producing materials. Ghulam Nabi Kahsar, head of crafters association of 11th police district of Kabul, talking at the event, said that poverty and high population of people in the city also contributed to pollution.

He said residents of districts came to cities for work and earnings which he said resulted in congestive population that led to pollution.

Importing of low quality fuel to the country and deforestation were other reasons of pollution, Kahsar said. He asked the government to prevent imports of poor quality fuel to the country. (Pajhwok)

(9) Peace Process ...

intra-Afghan dialogue opened on Sunday in Qatar's capital Doha with the presence of a 17-member negotiating team from the Taliban.

"There is already some format of negotiations going on (between the Taliban and the government). Of course, what's needed is eventually, and hopefully as soon as possible, talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban to start," Karzai said. "That is the only way forward."

Karzai noted that as the US prepares to exit Afghanistan, "we seek a solution in a manner that will allow the Taliban to be part of the Afghan political system".

"So it will be a settlement rather than a takeover. It should be the Taliban re-entry the Afghan politics with all the Afghans, and that is what we should be making sure," he said.

The eighth World Peace Forum, held on July 8-9 in Beijing and organized by Tsinghua University in partnership with the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, is a non-governmental seminar focusing on international security topics. (Tolo news)

(10) Ancient Bala ...

Aziz Rahman Shafaq, another civil society activist, criticized relevant national and international organizations, particularly UNESCO, over negligence about protection of the Gardez Bala Hesar.

"It is a very old fortress of Paktia,

which has been ignored, it receives huge damages each winter, it is very sad the site is not registered with UNESCO, I don't know what this organization is doing," he said. On the other hand, Paktia information and culture director Mohammad Shafaq agreed with people's concerns and said the Gardez Bala Hesar was in bad condition and they had shared its repairing issue with the relevant ministry and UNESCO but no action could be so far taken.

He said there were many other historical sites in Paktia but the Gardez Bala Hesar was in need of urgent attention.

"We have prepared a good plan for repairing Gardez Bala Hesar and we have it shared with the US embassy, UNESCO and other organizations, but unfortunately no attention is paid to the fortress which is falling into ruin," he said.

President Ashraf Ghani during a trip to Paktia had promised to allocate \$5 million for the Bala Hesar's reconstruction and building a museum inside it. (Pajhwok)

(11) 2 Killed, 3...

a military man at the hospital. Shahabuddin Shahab, an eyewitness, said the bomb had been placed in a garbage heap and was detonated as the police vehicle arrived.

A rickshaw was also damaged in the blast and two of its passengers were injured. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

(12) Five Health ...

and infrastructure; where this has not been the case, incidents need to be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice," the statement said. (Agencies)

(13) UK Ambassador...

ineffective and said "he has not served the U.K. well."

"I do not know the Ambassador, but he is not liked or well ... thought of within the U.S. We will no longer deal with him," Trump tweeted.

Britain's Foreign Office did not challenge the authenticity of the leaked documents, which covered the period of 2017 to the present, and came to Darroch's defense. It called the leak "mischievous behavior" and said the public has expected diplomats to provide honest assessments of the politics in the countries where they're posted.

It's customary for senior British diplomats posted overseas to file straightforward memos to senior ministers and security services analysts back home so political trends and possible threats to British interests could be gauged, but it's unusual for a large number of them to be made public. (Fox News)

(14) Israeli Education...

last five decades." Among those who took part in the study, almost 6 in 10 Jews who had gotten married since 2010 married a non-Jew.

Peretz was appointed to his role by Netanyahu last month. He previously served as Israel's chief military rabbi. (Fox News)

(15) Fuel Tanker ...

at approximately 6am local time. "At this stage it is difficult to say what caused the explosion," Police Chief Kenny Africa said. "The area has been contained and the fire department is trying to put out the flames. We can't get close to the incident yet because of the blaze," he added. (RT)

(16) 'Dangerous Times...

The controversial leader of the former US colony has turned to Russia and China to get the latest arms supplies for his forces after the United States, citing the country's human rights record amid ongoing drug war, blocked the sale of some 20,000 assault rifles. While the Philippines managed to acquire many

necessary armaments, Duterte said that he is looking to purchase an additional "few things."

Even though Washington has warned Manila that it should be "investing in a relationship" with the US, rather than buying armaments from American rivals, Duterte is scouting the market for armored cars, patrol boats, submarines and helicopters, and is ready to consider any supplier, including the US, if the deal is fair and come with no strings attached. (RT)

(17) Merkel Seen ...

event in Berlin. In both cases, Merkel played it off as merely feeling unwell, insisting that she had, in fact, recovered shortly after with just a glass of water. Merkel again sought to downplay the swirling health concerns in the aftermath of Wednesday's incident. She told reporters that she is "very well" and there is "no need to worry" after the latest trembling spell. (RT)

(18) Caught Between...

and returning to full JCPOA compliance without delay."

Europe is under pressure from the U.S. to abandon the accord entirely, as Washington did unilaterally last year, and it also is being squeezed by Iran to offset the ever-crippling effects of American economic sanctions.

That has left the Europeans' soft-power approach strained to its limits at a time of increasing tensions in the Middle East.

"For the Europeans, it's going to be difficult not to lose credibility in their position with Iran and also with Washington, by not being too soft, but at the same time acknowledging that there is some truth to what Iran is saying," said Adnan Tabatabai, a political scientist with the Bonn-based CARPO think tank on Middle Eastern affairs.

They are forced to walk a fine line, trying not to escalate the situation on either side as they seek a resolution between Tehran and Washington, with French President Emmanuel Macron taking the lead for the three European countries, known as the E3, said Sanam Vakil, a researcher with London-based Chatham House think tank.

"What the E3 can do is kick-start diplomacy and diplomatic conversations," she said. "They can potentially convince Iran to freeze its breach and prevent any further breaches, while shepherding a process back and forth between Washington and Iran – worst case scenario is that nothing happens, but at least they've bought themselves time." (AP)

(19) Gaza's Traditional...

artifacts, requiring him to scrub them to reveal their colors. Cardboard boxes of unfinished products and materials were stacked floor-to-ceiling.

Abu Sido opened his business in the 1980s, selling many of his items to vendors in the popular marketplace of Jerusalem's Old City. In his heyday, he said he took part in exhibitions in Europe.

That changed after 2007, when the Hamas militant group overran Gaza, and Israel and Egypt responded by sealing Gaza's borders. Abu Sido laid off his 15 workers and ceased operations the following year.

Israel says the blockade is needed to contain Hamas and prevent it from arming. But the closure, repeated rounds of fighting with Israel and a power struggle with the rival Palestinian Authority in the West Bank have hit Gaza hard.

Israel has greatly restricted exports and limited imports of raw materials. With unemployment over 50%, demand from the local market is weak. Israel blames the situation

on Hamas, an armed group that opposes Israel's existence.

In recent months, Israel has launched a number of "pilot" programs to allow Gaza businesses to export. But business owners say that after so many years of being unable to export, they have lost their former business partners and cannot simply restart operations.

Not far from Abu Sido's workshop is Khalaf's Carpentry, known for making prized cane and bamboo furniture. (AP)

(20) US Wants ...

both in the Straits of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab," General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a video carried by the Reuters news agency.

"I think probably over the next couple weeks we'll identify which nations have the political will to support that initiative and then we'll work directly with the militaries to identify the specific capabilities that'll support that," Dunford said. The US would provide "maritime domain awareness and surveillance," while ships would be escorted by the nations whose flag they carry, the general said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last month that he hopes more than 20 countries, including the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, would work together on building maritime security.

"We'll need you all to participate, your military folks," Pompeo said. "The president is keen on sharing that the United States doesn't bear the cost of this." (AFP)

(21) Lebanon Speaker...

Hezbollah and its allies won a majority in 2018 elections and the group has three Cabinet seats, the largest number it has ever controlled. The group, founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guard in the 1980s, is also among the most effective armed groups in the region and has fought several wars with neighboring Israel. Lebanon is still technically at war with Israel.

Hezbollah has also sent thousands of its fighters to Syria to fight alongside the troops of President Bashar Assad.

Hezbollah has been under increasing financial sanctions from the United States. But Treasury officials said the latest designation, naming lawmakers Mohammad Raad who leads the group's parliamentary bloc and Amin Sherri, makes clear that there is no dividing line between Hezbollah's political and militant wings.

Berri called on the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union to take the necessary measures regarding the "irrational behavior." It is not clear what the union can do. (AP)

(22) Saudi Royals ...

to take a tougher stance with the Saudis.

The travel restrictions in Risch's bill would remain in place until the kingdom shows progress on human rights. Demonstrable progress, as evaluated by a team of U.S. government agencies led by the State Department, could include the release of dozens of jailed dissidents, the person said. The measure is designed to put pressure on Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, although he would not personally be denied a visa since heads of state and the Saudi ambassador would be exempt. Risch has been trying for months to craft legislation that could be signed into law by Trump. The bill has the tacit support of the White House, as members of the senator's staff have had discussions with their counterparts with the administration, the person said. The Saudi Embassy in Washington did not immediately provide a response to a request for comment about the measure. (Bloomberg)