

(1) UN, NATO Hail...

The gathering has issued a communique after five working days, stressing a nation-wide truce ahead of Ramadan, opening of an office for Taliban in the country and release of prisoners.

Around 3,200 people from all over the country participated in the jirga from April 29 to May 3 in Kabul amid tight security. (Pajhwok)

(2) UN Envoy...

the Taliban in Doha in the past several years, said Dujarric.

The UN mission advises all parties to the conflict of its regular contacts with the Taliban in key areas, he said. (Xinhua)

(3) Failing Kabul...

He said most of Kabul winning candidates paid bribe and adopted illegal means to make it to the Wolesi Jirga.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Qasim Ilyasi, a commissioner and spokesman for Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC), told Pajhwok over the telephone that the aim of recounting Kabul votes was to further transparency in the election process.

Abdul Aziz Ibahimi, IEC's deputy spokesman, said whenever the IECC completed its investigation and send result to them, they would announce the final results of Kabul on the same day. (Pajhwok)

(4) Return of Refugees...

Ghani remarked at a meeting with representatives in Iran, Pakistan and Europe.

"We are waiting for their (refugees') honorable return and it is our priority within the peace framework," he explained. "European Union is our strategic partner and we are working on a plan to bring the refugees gradually to Afghanistan."

Ghani directed the Central Statistics Organisation to resolve passport-related issues of all Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. The president also met representatives of the National Women Coalition for Peace. He said the his government was protecting women's rights.

"This system is a legacy of the nation, which will appoint its next president in September. But our focus should be on the system," he said, hailing women's rule as crucial. (Pajhwok)

(5) Finance Ministry...

the results of the recounted votes of parliamentary elections due to "widespread fraud" in the recounting process.

The initial results of the parliamentary election for Kabul were invalidated by the former leadership of the commission last December and the recounting process started in mid-December.

IEC spokesman Mohammad Qasim Elyasi, however, said Saturday they are trying to find a solution to the crisis.

"We assessed the result sheets of the first day of polling in one day and our decision is almost final," said Elyasi.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on Saturday said the presidential elections should not experience the fate of the parliamentary elections.

This comes as Kabul results have not been announced, but President Ashraf Ghani has inaugurated the parliament.

(6) Kandahar Police...

our operations are underway in six districts and we are trying to eliminate the Taliban," said Khan.

Kandahar residents have called

on the Taliban to quit violence and embrace peace. (Tolo news)

(7) Turkey in Favor...

He called Turkey a strategic partner of Afghanistan.

"Serious efforts are ongoing by the United States to achieve peace in Afghanistan. As part of these efforts, the US and Taliban talks are ongoing," Abdullah said. "The Afghan government and people are committed to a just peace, but the Taliban is still a hurdle for peace because they are not ready for intra-Afghan and inclusive talks with the participation of the Afghan government and the people."

He said that the Afghan government is committed to holding a transparent and trusted election and that efforts are underway for this by the Independent Election Commission.

Abdullah said he welcomes Turkey's willingness for increasing its investment in Afghanistan and vowed to take practical steps through relevant offices in this regard. (Tolo news)

(8) Pul-I-Khumri...

of the dam were not closed.

Mir Hassan, a resident, said they were waiting for water of the dam for the last three months but its gate broke off just an hour after water released from it. He said they would lose their farms if the dam was not reconstructed soon. However, Hujatullah Yousufzai, a representative of the Ministry of Water and Energy and manager of Pul-i-Khumri Hydroelectric Dam, said that the gates of the dam could not be properly installed due to urgency of farmers that their crops were dying.

He said one of the gates of the dam was moved away from its place but it would be reinstalled in a day.

A Tajikistani company, Tromontaj, is responsible for reconstruction of the dam's gates.

Mahmud Kashoraov, owner of the company, during the launch of the project, had said his company would fundamentally construct the gates of the dam.

However, he refused to talk to Pajhwok Afghan News today about one of the dam's gate breaking away.

The contract for reconstruction of the dam was given to Tromontaj Company against 2.9 million USD by the Ministry of Water and Energy a year back. (Pajhwok)

(9) 2 Policemen...

abusing a woman in Abdan desert.

It added the governor's house has appointed a joint delegation to investigate the issue properly and further details in this regard would be shared later on.

The governor's house assured the victim's family of justice and legal punishment to the perpetrators. (Pajhwok)

(10) Will Forgive...

"They are in pain. Since he has lost his four sons, he feels lonely and he is sick and has no one to take him to the doctor," said Shah Mohammad, Mohammad's neighbor.

The continued war in the country has taken high a high toll from many families, like Saleh Mohammad.

Based on the United Nations figures, in the last 18 years of war in the country, over 60,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands of others have been wounded. (Tolo news)

(11) Taliban Commander...

Hasrat added the soldier's wife and son had gifted the Taliban commander 30,000 afghanis on

for his wedding. The ANA soldier, named Deedar, had borrowed the amount from a friend. The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(12) Japan's New Emperor...

gathered before the main gate of the palace before the first one, according to national broadcaster NHK.

More elaborate festivities are planned for October 22 when he and Masako will appear in traditional robes for a palace ceremony before parading through the streets of Tokyo to be congratulated by a host of world leaders and royals. (AFP)

(13) 'Heavy Barrage...

military wing and pledged to respond to what it called "Israeli aggression." In a threat delivered through social media, the group said that it will respond "to the crimes of the occupation and the killing of our people." (RT)

(14) Europe Living...

join the bloc. As part of the deal, Ankara requested an additional €3bn to help cope with the humanitarian crisis.

The two sides have squabbled over exactly how many refugees Turkey hosts - and how much money Ankara needs to care for them. For example, last year the EU claimed that Turkey was holding less than 2 million refugees, while the Turkish government insisted the number was closer to 4 million.

Despite Turkey's best efforts, in the last few years Europe has been rocked by a series of terrorist attacks, with some attributed to extremists who entered the bloc posing as asylum seekers.

While Ankara and Brussels have locked horns over issues ranging from visa-free travel to press freedoms, some European states have expressed gratitude to Turkey for its role in containing the influx of refugees trying to enter the bloc.

More than 1 million migrants poured into Europe in 2015. Although the influx has slowed considerably, the crisis has strained relations within the bloc and breathed new life into right-wing and anti-establishment parties across Europe, which are poised to make gains in the upcoming EU elections. (RT)

(15) North Korea Fires...

Vladimir Putin affirmed Russia's support for gradual nuclear disarmament in exchange for sanctions relief.

Putin and Trump discussed the issue in a phone call on Friday, agreeing on the need to pursue denuclearization, with Trump pushing Putin to join the US in applying pressure on Kim to disarm.

Thawing relations between North and South Korea have seemingly reversed their course in the aftermath of the failed Hanoi summit, with Pyongyang pulling out of a celebration of the anniversary of last year's historic summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Kim in the DMZ, and ceasing to attend weekly joint meetings.

The North has also slammed the South for ramping up its participation in "war games" with the US, warning last week that a "corresponding response" was imminent in the face of such "acts of perfidy." The US and South Korea began two weeks of joint air force exercises last Monday, a more low-key version of the annual Max Thunder drills.

North Korea conducted 17 missile tests in 2017, provoking interna-

tional outcry when several of the missiles passed over Japan. Last year, Kim began dismantling the North's missile and rocket test site, a process that has reportedly been reversed in the wake of the failed Hanoi nuclear talks, and promised to stop testing ICBMs. (RT)

(16) Damascus Accuses...

agreement" like those imposed by Damascus on various rebel groups, and on Friday convened a conference of Arab tribes to seek their support.

The state SANA news agency quoted a foreign ministry source as accusing organisers of the conference in the alliance-held but mainly Arab town of Ain Issa of "treason".

It claimed that the meeting in a town "held by armed militia dependent on the United States and some European countries" had ended in "failure" as a result of a "boycott by most of the tribes".

"Such gatherings are clear embodiments of the treason of their organisers, whatever their political, ethnic or racial allegiances," the source added.

In his address to Friday's conference, the leader of the Syrian Democratic Forces, Mazloum Kobani, said that Damascus would need to recognise the authority of the Kurdish administration in northeastern Syria as well as the "special status" of the alliance and its role in defending the region against IS.

He said there could be no going back to the situation before the civil war erupted in 2011 when the Kurds were denied any official recognition as a minority that accounts for some 15 percent of the population.

"It is not possible to reach a democratic and pluralistic Syria without full recognition of the rights of Syria's Kurds," he said. The SDF has been cornered into seeking an accommodation with Damascus by two-pronged pressure from the looming US troop withdrawal and a longstanding threat by Turkey to send troops across the border to end the experiment in self-rule by Kurdish forces it regards as "terrorists". (AFP)

(17) US Seeks to Sell...

which is seeking to recover assets allegedly bought with looted funds via civil lawsuits.

Among these assets is the mansion in Beverly Hills, a wealthy area of LA that is home to many Hollywood stars, said to have been bought by Low in 2012 with stolen money.

US prosecutors and Low's holding company that owns the property have agreed to try to sell it, according to documents filed in a California court Friday.

"The property is at risk of deterioration and damage as it will likely be uninhabited during" ongoing legal action unless it is sold, the filings said.

"The expense of keeping the property is excessive and/or is disproportionate to its fair market value," they added.

The US legal action linked to the mansion will continue despite the agreement. Proceeds from any eventual sale will be held in a government account until the action ends, the filings said.

Low's spokesman in a statement welcomed the "mutual effort to preserve the property's value while ensuring the owners' claims are protected and may proceed in a timely fashion". The current whereabouts of

Low, who gained a reputation as a jet-setting playboy, are unknown. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The 1MDB scandal played a huge part in the election loss last year of Najib's coalition, which had governed Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957.

The ex-leader has since been arrested over the fraud and went on trial last month.

Malaysia's new government has re-opened investigations into 1MDB and vowed to get back stolen money. The US is getting ready to return about \$200 million of recovered funds to Malaysia, Bloomberg News reported this week. (AFP)

(18) 'I Shall Reign...

pomp with solemn religious rites. The monarch was joined by new Queen Suthida after a surprise announcement three days before the coronation that the thrice-divorced monarch had married for a fourth time.

His coronation comes amid the uncertainty of an unresolved election battle between the current military junta chief and a "democratic front" trying to push the army out of politics.

"I shall continue, preserve, and build upon the royal legacy and shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the people forever," the king said in his first royal command.

Traditionally uttered after a king is crowned, the king's first command serves to capture the essence of his reign. The king's command was similar to that of his father's.

Late in the afternoon, the king was carried in a royal palanquin in a procession from the Grand Palace to the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, where yellow-clad Thais awaited his arrival, repeatedly chanting, "Long live the king." (Reuters)

(19) 'Miracle': Plane...

"We could be talking about a different story this evening."

It wasn't known how long it would take to remove the plane from the river, but Connor said the landing gear appeared to be resting on the river bed, making it unlikely for the aircraft to float away. He said crews began working to contain any jet fuel leaks almost immediately after securing the passengers' safety.

Liz Torres told the Florida Times-Union that she heard what sounded like a gunshot Friday night from her home in Orange Park, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) south of NAS Jacksonville. She then drove down to a Target parking lot where police and firefighters were staging to find out more. "I've never seen anything like this," she said. (AP)

(20) China Focus: China...

The project is estimated to help cut the emission of more than 23,000 tonnes of dust, over 86,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide and more than 2,600 tonnes of sulfur dioxide annually.

As the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) advances, the country has been committed to making BRI a green cause of sustainable development.

China and the United Nations Environment Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2016, focusing on enhanced collaboration to build a green Belt and Road.

It has also signed cooperation agreements concerning ecological and environmental protection with more than 30 countries participating the BRI. (Xinhua)