

(1) Halt Fighting...

"It is our hope that the observance of Ramadan will provide an opportunity for all communities in Afghanistan to come closer together. In that spirit, the UN calls on all parties to the conflict to halt the fighting," said Yamamoto.

The UN family in Afghanistan remains committed in its stand with the Afghan people in their quest for a peaceful, united and prosperous Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(2) Khalilzad May...

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's term expires this month. India is keen to hear from Khalilzad on his meetings with his Russian and Chinese counterparts last month.

Khalilzad is leading efforts by the Trump administration to end the war by facilitating US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(3) China to Help...

able to treat more than a hundred Afghan children with congenital heart diseases last year.

China would also treat 300 children with similar diseases this ongoing year, he said.

Chen Zhu said the Red Cross Society of China on Saturday provided \$200,000 in aid to the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Afghan officials say the money would be spent on assisting people affected in recent incidents.

"I want relations between Afghanistan and China to improve and peace is established in our neighboring country," Zhu said.

Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan was also present at the conference. "People and governments of the two countries have always been friendly and today once again we reaffirm our cooperation to treat Afghan children who suffer from heart diseases," he said.

He said China had also opened a hospital in Kunduz province and his country's support to Afghanistan would continue in health area.

Afghan Red Crescent Society said around 16,000 children in Afghanistan were suffering from congenital heart diseases, of which 9,000 have been treated inside the country so far. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghan Forces...

He said that more than 18 Taliban militants were killed in the airstrikes and 25 others were wounded.

Shah Mahmoud Naeemi, member of Farah Provincial Council, said that more than 50 civilians have been affected in the airstrikes, but Mohib rejected the claim. (Tolo news)

(4) Foreign Diplomats...

High Peace Council secretary and Loya Jirga convention commission chief Omar Daudzai was also present on the occasion.

Zaman provided detailed information to the foreign diplomats about the Loya Jirga's significance, participants and decisions.

Questions posed by the diplomats were also answered, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghanistan Officially...

government organs to implement the law in letter and spirit.

He said more than half of children in Afghanistan lacked adequate living standards, access to food, education, water and sanitation and other basic services.

Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwari, who was present on the occasion, said it was the government's responsibility to provide children with quality health and education services and protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation. (Pajhwok)

(6) KS Relief Embarks...

KSRelief in a statement said 220 needy families were distributed the relief goods for Ramadan in Kabul as the process began.

Balkhi on the occasion said the Saudi aid was aimed at alleviating problems of poor families during the holy month.

He said each family was given relief goods worth \$50 and the goods included rice, ghee, flour, beans, dates and tea.

Refugee Ministry spokesman Raza Bahar said 5000 deserving families in Kabul would be distributed the relief goods. He said another 15,000 families in five more provinces would be given the aid. The Saudi envoy assured the king-

dom's cooperation with the Afghan Refugee and Repatriation Ministry in terms of humanitarian assistance. Advisor to the Refugee Ministry on social affairs Hayatullah Sabawoon said KSRelief planned to distribute relief goods worth one million US dollars to 20000 displaced, returning and deserving families in five Afghanistan provinces. (Pajhwok)

(7) Ghani Accepts...

economic potential of the two countries for assured socio-economic development, alleviation of poverty, and welfare of the two peoples.

The two leaders agreed to make efforts for availing the geographic locations of Afghanistan and Pakistan to enhance regional connectivity.

The two leaders exchanged views on matters relating to peace, security and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region, it added.

Prime Minister Imran stated that the spirit of brotherhood defined Pakistan's approach towards Afghanistan.

The prolonged Afghan conflict had damaged Afghanistan and adversely affected Pakistan over the past many decades. For the sake of the two peoples, the aim of the leadership should be to help build peace, promote economic progress, and advance connectivity for regional prosperity, he maintained.

The premier reiterated his vision for finding a peaceful solution in Afghanistan, fully owned and led by the Afghans themselves. He underlined that Pakistan will spare no effort to advance the common objectives of building peace in Afghanistan and having a fruitful bilateral relationship between the two brotherly countries.

Prime Minister Imran once again extended an invitation to President Ghani to visit Pakistan for a comprehensive exchange of views on all issues of mutual interest. Dates for the visit would be decided through mutual consultations, according to the statement. (Pajhwok)

He said 18 civilians were also wounded in the attack, whose houses were located close to the police headquarters.

The Taliban have claimed credit for the attack which they claimed left dozens of police killed and wounded. (Pajhwok)

(13) Nangarharis Say

scholars term them a conspiracy against them.

Maulvi Rahim Shah, whose nephew (a religious scholar) was killed a few days ago in Behsud district by unknown assailants, said the killing spree of religious scholars had started in Nangarhar.

He said religious scholars were targeted under different pretexts and if the killings did not stop, it would produce dire consequences.

Nangarhar Governor Shah Mahmood Miakhel said targeted killings were the handiwork of Daesh and Taliban militants who opted for soft targets in the provincial capital after facing defeat in districts.

He said recently some individuals had been arrested in connection with targeted killings and security forces were working to arrest more. Police spokesman Faridullah told Pajhwok that they were working with other security agencies to create a special unit for dealing with targeted attacks and other similar incidents. (Pajhwok)

(9) US-Taliban Talks...

including an "intra-Afghan" dialogue with the Kabul government and other Afghan representatives before agreeing to any withdrawal.

The Taliban have said they would not take any of these steps until the United States announces a withdrawal timeline. (Pajhwok)

(10) Kabul Court...

But the jury finally decided to issue its verdict on the case based on which Nuristani was handed 13 months jail term.

"Based on article 396 and code 17 and paragraph 237 of the criminal law, the jury has decided to hand Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani, son of Ahmad Khan, to one year and one month jail term and the repayment of one million Afghans," said Sher Aqa Munib, a judge at the court of the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center (ACJC), which is assessing corruption cases that involve high-ranking officials.

"We are not satisfied with the verdict," said Jaber Ahmad Akbari, another defense attorney of Nuristani. Documents received by TOLONews show that Nuristani was accused of misusing his authority twice while governor in Herat and was summoned to appear before the ACJC court in connection with the allegations but he failed to do so.

The documents show that the ACJC has issued arrest warrants against Nuristani in many occasions but that the Ministry of Interior failed to take Nuristani into custody.

According to the documents, Nuristani was twice summoned by

the ACJC to respond to the allegations but when he failed to appear they issued arrest warrants.

The documents state that the ACJC warned police that if they do not arrest Nuristani, then the ACJC will make a decision based on the Criminal Procedure Code.

Nuristani was recently appointed as member of the Meshrano Jirga by President Ashraf Ghani. (Tolo news)

(11) Journalists...

media were in fact violating the access to information law and should be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Abdul Basir Haqjo, provincial Journalist Union head, said unfortunately government officials were mostly complicit in incidents of violence against journalists. He said the Taliban were in second and powerful individuals in third place in terms of crimes against journalists.

He said, "Provincial officials have never coordinated with us in this regard, thus we urge the central government to address our issues in the province and assure our safety as well."

Meanwhile, Akhtar Mohammad Khairzadah, deputy acting governor, said all government organs should cooperate with media persons in their access to information. (Pajhwok)

(12) 75 People Suffer...

He said 18 civilians were also wounded in the attack, whose houses were located close to the police headquarters.

The Taliban have claimed credit for the attack which they claimed left dozens of police killed and wounded. (Pajhwok)

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(14) 2 Romanian...

the mission, the ministry informed. Corporal Laurentiu Bogatu and PFC Ionut Burlacu were given the first aid and were sent to the ROL III Military Hospital inside the Air Base in Kandahar.

Their condition is stable, with corporal Bogatu being already discharged. He will remain under medical surveillance at the Romanian camp. (Pajhwok)

(15) China Says It...

the only U.S.-Russia arms control pact limiting deployed strategic nuclear weapons, expires in February 2021 but can be extended for five years if both sides agree. Without the agreement, it could be harder to gauge each other's intentions, arms control advocates say. (Reuters)

(16) US Warships Sail...

more soon. The threat was made amid faltering negotiations between Washington and Beijing to end a months-long trade war.

The resource-rich South China Sea is the subject of conflicting claims by a number of countries, including China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. The US has been regularly sending

its warships to carry out patrol missions in the disputed area, a policy decried by Beijing. (RT)

(17) U.S. Deploying Carrier...

globally passes through the strait.

"The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or regular Iranian forces," Bolton said in a statement.

It marked the latest in a series of moves by President Donald Trump's administration aimed at ratcheting up pressure on Iran in recent months.

Washington has said it will stop waivers for countries buying Iranian oil, in an attempt to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero. It has also blacklisted Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps, taking the unprecedented step of designating it as a foreign terrorist organization, which Iran has cast as an American provocation. (Reuters)

(18) Captain of Ill-Fated...

the fuselage. But the captain failed to explain why the touchdown was so hard, only saying that "we had caught fire upon landing."

The crew didn't seem to have any trouble during descent, he said. "The speed wasn't high, it was normal. [We acted] according to the flight manual." However, the jet's weight was much greater than required because of its full tanks, making it extremely challenging to safely land a 45-ton airliner on a runway, the pilot said.

He and his first officer followed a protocol on landing an overweight plane, but it could be the bumpy touchdown that ignited fire on board, Evdokimov suggested.

The plane was flying to Murmansk, a city in the north of Russia, carrying 78 passengers and five crew members. Shortly after take-off, the pilots declared an emergency and turned back. The Flightradar24 tracking service showed that the jet circled twice around Moscow before it hit the runway after spending less than half an hour in the air. (RT)

(19) Spanish Courts...

be able to take their seats since that would require them to first go back to Spain to receive their official parliamentary credentials in person. They are still wanted in Spain and would face arrest.

A dozen other separatist leaders who stayed in Spain are currently undergoing trial at Spain's Supreme Court in Madrid. (AP)

(20) Turkey's Election...

the High Election Board (YSK) ordered partial and full recounts across Istanbul. Istanbul's new CHP mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, took office last month as the recounts were completed.

In its interim rulings, the YSK ordered district electoral officials to inspect their respective polling station officials.

Prosecutors also launched probes into alleged irregularities, which state-owned Anadolu news agency said resulted in 43 officials being linked to the network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, blamed by Ankara for a 2016 coup attempt.

While it was unclear when the YSK may rule on the annulment appeal, it has until Wednesday. The AKP's representative in the YSK, Recep Ozel, said the party hoped for a decision on Monday. (Reuters)

(21) Axiata, Telenor...

Annual sales for the merged regional entity are estimated at more than 50 billion ringgit (\$12 billion), with earnings of over 20 million ringgit (\$4.8 billion), it said. In addition, the merger could translate to potential savings of 20 billion ringgit (\$4.8 billion) with economies of scale and scope. Axiata said the merged company will be listed on the Malaysian bourse and later in an international stock exchange.

"We are on the verge of making a new history. This proposed mega

merger of equals would create a global champion.... of the nine markets, the new merger will allow us to stake number one positions in six countries," said Axiata President and Group Chief Executive Jamaludin Ibrahim. (AP)

(22) 'Very Pleased...

in his speech, thanking citizens for their blessings and wishing them happiness and success.

"May the unity in expressing your goodwill to me today be a good start for everyone, every party to unify your duties for the prosperity of our country."

The three branches of the armed forces saluted the king before the prime minister and crowd chanted, "Long live the king!"

The king then met foreign ambassadors and thanked them for their attendance, concluding the coronation ceremonies.

The coronation started on Saturday, after a long period of official mourning for the king's revered father, who died in October 2016 having reigned for 70 years.

On Sunday, the king was carried through the streets on a gilded palanquin for the royal procession. Well-wishers, all wearing yellow, gathered from early morning along the 7 km (4 mile) route from the Grand Palace to three royal temples. (Reuters)

(23) North Korea Tests...

how to get him back to the negotiating table.

Kim personally supervised the test of what experts believe was a short-range ballistic missile first displayed by the North at a military parade early last year, along with a drill involving 240 millimeter- and 300 millimeter-caliber multiple rocket launchers.

There remains some uncertainty over what was tested.

South Korea's military reported that various "projectiles" flew from 70 to 240 kilometers (44 to 149 miles) before splashing harmlessly into the Pacific. The activity prompted the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan to tweet on its official account — in all capital letters — "MISSILE INBOUND."

The tweet was soon followed by an all clear, and an "enjoy your Saturday."

Trump moved quickly to minimize the significance of the test on his efforts to strike a nuclear deal with North Korea, tweeting that Kim "knows that I am with him & does not want to break his promise to me." (AP)

(24) Dissension over...

"The EU considers the extra-territorial application of unilateral restrictive measures to be contrary to international law and will draw on all appropriate measures to address the effects of the Helms-Burton Act," said the EU's top diplomat.

She also warned that "this will cause unnecessary friction and undermines trust and predictability in the transatlantic partnership."

On Friday, in a meeting with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reiterated that Canada considers the U.S. move "contrary to international law," and will "defend the interests of Canadians conducting legitimate trade and investment with Cuba."

The Russian Foreign Ministry also said on Friday that Washington's move in the spirit of the "Monroe Doctrine" is "overt encroachment" on the sovereignty of Cuba as well as other states including U.S. allies, and violates the norms of international law.

Last month, following Washington's announcement to end the decades-old waiver of Title III, the Spanish government warned in a communique that the tightening of the economic blockade against Cuba would harm the democratization of the island, while also contravening international law. (Xinhua)