

## N. Korean Cargo Ship Seized by Us Arrives in American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa – A North Korean cargo ship seized by the U.S. because of suspicion it was used to violate international sanctions arrived Saturday at the capital of this American territory, where it will undergo inspections. The Wise Honest was slowly towed to the port of Pago Pago during a cloudy Saturday morning and docked at the main docking section of the port that afternoon.

The trip from Indonesia took

about three weeks and American Samoa, in the South Pacific, was chosen because of “its central strategic location,” U.S. Coast Guard public affairs officer Amanda Wyrick said.

“We also have a good strong relationship and partnership with the American Samoan government,” Wyrick said. “With that being said, we also already have the resources that are able to ensure the security of the vessel but most importantly the Port of Pago Pago.” (AP)

### (1) Taliban Urged to

the people could offer any kind of resistance to any kind of conflict to honor their commitment.” He said the government wanted an honorable peace and the Taliban should positively respond to them.

The Consultative Peace Jirga was held from April 29 till May 3. The issued a 23-point statement which suggested talks and reconciliation to bring peace and stability in the country. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Taliban Wants

He asked the Trump administration to ensure a peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government before the withdrawn of the US troops. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Kabul Accepts

sanctions and economic pressure on Iran in total disregard of their own responsibility of waging war on a sovereign nation (Afghanistan), displacing multi-million Afghans, making them refugees. Iran spends eight billion dollars a year to host the Afghan refugees,’ he noted.

Araqchi added that Washington pursues hostile policy against Iran to zero Iranian crude oil exports at a time when Iran spends eight billion dollars a year to host the Afghan refugees displaced by US invasion of Afghanistan.

‘The Europeans should also take on responsibility either by paying the costs of the refugees and migrants or by hosting a part of the Afghan community in their own countries,’ the Iranian deputy foreign minister said. (IRNA)

### (4) Candidates Insist

“Afghanistan presidents instead of being questioned, asked and summoned over not taking steps in contravention of the laws, their tenures being extended, and it is an unwanted tradition and a move against the law,” aid Gul Ahmad Madadzai, deputy head of Afghanistan’s Lawyers Union. While it is not clear that which institution has the authority to interpret the Constitution, but the Supreme Court had extended the tenure of the former president as well.

“If we look closely into both the interpretations, the president’s tenure is ended and there no other legal logic. If you search for legal solutions, the solutions are specified in Afghanistan’s Constitution,” Arash Shahir, a lawyer said.

The Supreme Court and the Presidential Palace did not comment in this regard. (Tolo news)

### (5) Online Business

company in Kabul.

Hasibullah, an employee of an online company in Kabul, said he was recently wounded after he came under attack by after some people who ordered goods online.

“I got an order from a customer in PD7 of Kabul city and when I

delivered the order, six to seven people armed with knives attacked me and wanted to take my bike but I did not let them and they stabbed my on my leg and left the area,” said Hasibullah.

The Ministry of Interior did not comment on the issue despite repeated attempts by TOLONews reporter. (Tolo news)

### (6) 5 Pro-Govt Fighters

“We were sleeping and suddenly gunfire took place and the situation was getting worse so we were forced to move to the neighboring village during the late night,” said a resident of the area. About 10 families had fled the area due to the clash, Tawfiq claimed. The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Taliban Close

Around 43 health centers are operating in Nuristan province, with 37 belonging to AHEAD organization and the rest to other NGOs. (Pajhwok)

### (8) China’s Benefits

China’s opening-up will certainly help strengthen cooperation between Egypt and China, as Egypt seeks to modernize industry in many fields, such as textile, irrigation technology and agriculture, the Egyptian expert said.

China has modern technology in such fields, which is a great opportunity for Egyptian-Chinese cooperation, Kamhawy said. (Xinhua)

### (9) Guaido Tells

demonstrations against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro take place, according to AFP. Unlike previous rallies that included several thousand people, it didn’t move along the street of Caracas. “We are at a historic moment: either we are prisoners of fear, despair and inaction... or we continue to occupy the street with hope, with strength, with confidence,” Guaido said.

It seems, however, that Guaido’s efforts to seize power in Venezuela have stalled so far. His initial “historic moment” was back in January, when the previously little-known opposition politician, who mostly stayed in the shadow of his prominent political mentor, Leopoldo Lopez, declared himself “interim president” of Venezuela and almost immediately received support from Washington and its allies.

He has been far less successful inside Venezuela, though, as he failed to garner enough public support to directly challenge President Maduro at the polls, whose victory in May 2018 angered Washington. Since then, Guaido has not had much luck in garnering support from the Venezuelan people and the army, which still overwhelmingly supports the legitimate government. In late April, after months of unsuccessful attempts to make Maduro leave, Guaido called for “decisive actions” against the

government in what was essentially a coup attempt. He once again called on the armed forces to back him. Even though his call sparked massive street protests in Caracas, only a handful of military followed him and the coup eventually fizzled, apparently forcing Guaido to seek other ways to seize power.

Guaido has repeatedly said he has not ruled out US military intervention, and once said he could “authorize” it, sparking rebukes even from members of the US Congress. (RT)

### (10) ‘Game Change’

That robots will one day replace humans on the battlefield or will make up the majority of the combat troops is no longer an idea from the world of science fiction, but a firm conviction of some security experts.

In 2016, the head of Russia’s military hi-tech body – analogous to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the US – said the notion of people fighting battles on the ground will soon be obsolete.

“Future warfare will involve operators and machines, not soldiers shooting at each other on the battlefield,” Andrey Grigoriev, head of the Advanced Research Foundation (ARF), said. (RT)

### (11) Shanahan Says

service and other activities in support of Customs and Border Protection. The troops are prohibited from performing law enforcement duties. Troops have been deployed on the border since last October and are committed to being there through September.

While flying to Texas, he dismissed any suggestion that active-duty forces will extend their mission for the long haul. “It will not be indefinite,” he told reporters traveling with him.

Shanahan also said he has instructed a two-star Army general, Ricky Waddell, to develop a plan soon that will answer this question: “How do we get more badges back to the border?” – a reference to ensuring Homeland Security Department is fully capable of securing the border, its core mission.

Shortfalls in personnel and other resources have prompted DHS to periodically ask for the military’s help on the U.S.-Mexico border, without a plan for how to fix the underlying resource problems.

“What we want is for DHS to be effective and stand alone,” Shanahan said, with the Pentagon always available to help in an emergency, as it has in the past. DHS on Friday submitted another request for Pentagon assistance, defense officials said Saturday. That request, which has not previously been disclosed, is for shelter for detained migrants, and would include tents to be set up but not secured by an undetermined number of military troops, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity

## UN Leader Arrives in New Zealand on Climate Change Trip

highlight the problems of climate change.

In Christchurch, he will also meet with Muslim leaders following the March 15 slaughter of 51 worshippers by a gunman who attacked two mosques during Friday prayers. Guterres said he usually visits a Muslim country during the holy month of Ramadan but this year decided to visit Muslims in New Zealand as a tribute to their courage and resilience after the attack. He said he admired the soli-

arity New Zealand showed after the attack, and praised Ardern for helping implement new gun control laws and for urging other world leaders and tech companies to find a way to prevent acts of extremism from being shown online, after the gunman livestreamed his attack on Facebook.

Ardern this week plans to travel to Paris, where she and French President Emmanuel Macron will host a meeting seeking to eliminate such acts from being shown online. (AP)

to discuss internal planning. (AP)

### (12) Erdogan Refuses

The Turkish leader said: “Those attempting to topple the elected Venezuelan head of state cannot talk about democracy,” referring to President Nicolas Maduro.

“Those who do not speak up against the Israeli terror cannot say anything about our struggle for rights,” he added. (AFP)

### (13) French FM Urges

Plan of Action (JCPOA), with further measures threatened if the agreement’s other signatories fail to mitigate the impact of renewed American sanctions within 60 days.

Le Drian also warned against a “bellicose spiral”, stressing the “responsibility” of the Americans and the importance of dialogue with Tehran. (AFP)

### (14) Inequality Tops

It is struggling with a sharp decline in population owing to mass emigration to Western Europe by people seeking a better life.

Around a quarter of Lithuanians live below the poverty line, which is about 300 euros (\$340) per month.

“Citizens are thirsty for social justice and seek a candidate who can bridge existing social polarisation,” Donatas Puslys from the Vilnius Policy Analysis Institute told AFP.

All candidates support EU and NATO membership as bulwarks against neighbouring Russia, especially since its 2014 military intervention in Ukraine.

Unlike other eastern European Union members, Vilnius has avoided confrontation with the EU. (AFP)

### (15) Asian University

In presenting the honorary degree to Dr. Qayoumi, AUW Founder Kamal Ahmad remarked: “We honor him today not only for his extraordinary achievements in academia and in government but also for his own life’s example which echoes the core ideals of AUW. Growing up in a rural suburb of Kabul, Dr. Qayoumi, the son of a carpenter in a family of six children, would walk several miles three times a week receive English lesson. A scholarship to the American University of Beirut, and subsequently for graduate studies in the United States, altered his life’s journey. He, in turn, is now impacting the prospect of peace, stability, and well-being for the people of Afghanistan. His deep commitment to expanding the opportunities of an AUW education to women across Afghanistan’s 34 provinces have brought us into close partnership.”

The noted proponent of Ravindra Sangeet Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya was awarded an honorary degree of doctorate of arts. In presenting the honorary degree to Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Kamal Ahmad noted “Tagore’s vision of a world “Where the

mind is without fear... Where knowledge is free, Where the world has not been broken up into fragments...” is all the more important at a time when these core values are under attack almost everywhere. Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya through her unstinting efforts in cultivating the music and knowledge and philosophy of Tagore is inspiring this nation and others to abandon the insidious hate against the other and embrace the dignity of our common humanity as propounded by Tagore.”

Vice Chancellor Professor Nirmala Rao, OBE, FAcSS remarked that AUW graduates have already made a profound impact on the economic, cultural and social fabric of the communities in which they live. They work in the private sector with major national and multinational companies; they are also deeply involved with the not for profit organizations working with UN agencies such as UNHCR, WFP, the World Bank and others. She further noted that AUW graduates, now over 800, span continents and industries, but is tied together each individual’s commitment to transforming their chosen field and contributing to the betterment of their communities. (PR)

### (16) French FM Warns

Le Drian warned that the chain of reactions on JCPOA could intensify into a “bellicose spiral”. The top French diplomat described Iran decision to suspend sale of excess uranium and heavy water as a “bad reaction” in response to a similar “bad decision” by Washington to not honor its commitments.

“Iran has had a bad reaction, faced with a bad US decision to withdraw from the Vienna agreements and impose sanctions,” said Le Drian while urging Tehran to “show its political maturity”. (Press TV)

### (17) Turkmenistan Elected

As to the contribution of Turkmenistan in the resolution of population related issues, it is worthwhile to note the implementation in the country of various important programs in the area of reproductive health, nationwide and regional projects aimed at provision of most convenient conditions for applying the demographic policy, protection of mother and child.

Turkmenistan will continue uncompromised struggle against the narcotics. Practical actions are realized in the country aimed at combating illegal drug trafficking and in this regard national programs are successfully implemented. The membership of Turkmenistan in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs opens new perspectives for cooperation for efficient response to this global challenge. (Trend)