

(1) UN Urges...

vehicle full of explosives. Reports indicate there were 17 civilian casualties and among them two girls were killed.

In the first week of Ramadan, the Taliban killed six civilians and injured a further 28 in a premeditated attack against a non-governmental organization in downtown Kabul. "Deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians can never be justified and amount to war crimes," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "An attack in a mosque, especially at a time of prayer during Ramadan, is particularly heinous." These deliberate attacks in civilian-populated areas have taken place against a background of widespread reports of a recent intensification of the conflict, as well as multiple credible claims that civilians are paying a heavy price.

The Mission notes that in recent airstrikes against anti-government targets in Helmand and Kunar, as many as 14 civilians were killed. In the 20 and 22 May attacks in the Greshk district of Helmand and the Chawki district of Kunar, those civilians killed included four women and eight children. A further 12 civilians were wounded.

UNAMA urges every party to redouble efforts to prevent civilians being caught up in deadly engagements. It is vital that parties respect their obligations under international law to protect civilians from harm.

UNAMA will continue to conduct its Security Council-mandated impartial monitoring and recording of harm to civilians, making its findings public as part of work to promote accountability and limit the impact of the war on civilians. UNAMA reiterates its call for the parties to halt the fighting during Ramadan and uphold their obligations to protect civilians from harm. UNAMA extends deep condolences to the families of victims and wishes a speedy recovery to all those affected by recent violence. (PR)

(2) UNICEF Seeks \$7mn...

youngsters suffering from the condition had remained "stagnant" for years. "If we don't have money to buy this treatment, the severely acute malnourished will not get it." The development comes amid ongoing insecurity linked to four decades of conflict in Afghanistan, where UNICEF distributes supplies to health facilities across all 34 provinces.

According to the agency, 3.8 million children need protection and assistance this year, while nearly 289,000 people were displaced by violence in 2018. In addition, one in three children has experienced psychological distress, linked to the "constant risk" of death or injury, UNICEF believes. Existing funding shortages have meant that fewer than one in two of the most vulnerable children received life-saving help in UN-supported health clinics across Afghanistan in 2018.

"This year in 2019, we would like to reach 60 per cent (of children) - not even 100 per cent - but we cannot," Mr. Boulhier explained, "and it is extremely worrying. If we do not get \$7 million dollars in three weeks, 1,300 facilities all over the country will not get this treatment."

To meet Afghanistan's essential nutrition requirements in 2019, UNICEF needs \$26 million, but it has so far only received half of this amount.

"We cannot tell you how many children will die; but we can tell you that a child with severe acute malnutrition is 11 times more likely to die than their healthy peers," he explained, noting that malnutrition reduces people's resistance to disease.

This is a particular concern in Afghanistan, where only one in two

children has been vaccinated, the UNICEF spokesperson added. (Pajhwok)

(3) New MoD...

Pointing to foreign rebels operating in Afghanistan, he said, "I warn foreign terrorists to leave Afghanistan or this country would turn to their graveyard."

Defense minister, Asadullah Khalid while addressing Special Operations Corps personnel said, "When I come here, I feel proud and energetic,"

"Fareed would take care of soldiers in training and protection, the enemy tried to start a new offensive against the Afghan forces but it failed to do anything. This credit goes to you, the Afghan Forces. We're not alone, we have God and people on our side as well as international community's support," he said.

Lt. Gen. Mohammad Fareed Ahmadi who replaced Bismillah Waziri has served as the head of the Joint Special Operations Center for a year. His military training and education started from Military High School in Kabul. He earned his master degree in military from the Parachute Commando University of Russia. He obtained his second master degree in International Relations, International Security and Strategy from London's Royal College. (Pajhwok)

(4) Media Role...

Jeenbekov stressed the role of media in the world and a responsible mission.

"You are doing a great thing not only for our countries, but for the whole world. They say that media is an instant reflection of the current history of the world. I would add that people see the world through your eyes. The atmosphere both within a particular country and between our states depends on your position and responsibility," the president said.

He stressed that one of the main tasks of the SCO is to create an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect between countries and peoples, and in the implementation of this task, he said, a huge role belongs to the mass media.

"The media helps to build an open dialogue, promote mutual understanding between our societies. The word tends to materialize. The word has always been a sharp weapon: it can destroy and can create," added Jeenbekov and urged the participants of the forum to bear the great mission with the utmost honesty and great responsibility. (Pajhwok)

(5) Safeguarding...

from continued attacks by the Taliban and other groups.

"We call on the Taliban to demonstrate a commitment to peace for the sake of security and stability," the statement quoted Raz as saying.

The Afghan representative also reiterated the Afghan government call to the Taliban to demonstrate a real commitment to peace through deeds and to give up the path of violence and end attacks on ordinary civilians, public infrastructure, medical and humanitarian personnel. (Pajhwok)

(6) Terror Groups...

that there are at least 20 terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The report includes estimates of how many fighters these groups have in the region.

The report notes that most of these groups do not have global aspirations or reach. "For example, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, one of the larger groups, focuses on fighting the Pakistani government," it adds. According to these estimates: ISIS-K, Haqqani Network and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan are the three largest groups in the region. Each has between 3,000 to 5,000 fighters. The Islamic Emirate High Council is the fourth with 1,000 fighters. Al Qaeda, one of the strongest terrorist groups in the region before the

US invasion has now been reduced to 300 fighters.

Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Lashkar-e Tayyiba also have about 300 fighters. Tariq Gidar Group has 100-300 fighters, Jamaat ul-Ahrar 200, Islamic Turkistan Movement 100, Islamic Jihad Union 25 and Jamaat Dawa Quran 25. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban's...

The new commander of the Afghan Special Operations Forces Mohammad Fareed Ahmadi, meanwhile, warned the Taliban to stop fighting to the Afghan security forces, otherwise, they will be eradicated.

Ahmadi said the Afghan commandos, who conduct the special operations, will change the direction of war to peace and stability.

"Together we will change the trend of war to peace in support of the Afghan people," he said. "I'm warning the Taliban fighters. Do not kill yourself for no reason. Have mercy on your families."

Ahmadi called on the Taliban fighters to stop listening to their leaders because they fuel the fight under the order of foreign countries.

"Do not listen to your Taliban leaders who sit under the flags of other countries," he said. "I warn foreign terrorists. Leave Afghanistan or this will be your graveyard." (Tolo news)

(8) Afghanistan Celebrates...

their country, a charge which Pakistan, for its part, denies.

As the match concluded, automatic gunfire rang out across Kabul as fans rushed into the streets of the Afghan capital in now a familiar celebration of cricket success.

The rise of Afghan cricket has been a remarkable by-product of the decades of turmoil that forced millions into refugee camps across the border in Pakistan, where young men uprooted from home and with little to occupy them learned the sport.

On social media, politicians set aside brawls in parliament and bitter accusations of corruption, incompetence and nepotism to hail the team under Gulbadin Naib who hope to make the semi-finals. "We, the Afghans, defeated Pakistan in cricket," tweeted Amrullah Saleh, a former intelligence chief now running on President Ashraf Ghanis team for elections in September.

"Yes it happened this evening and a massive mark was registered in history."

Similar messages came from a range of other officials and political figures.

In a sporting concession, Gen. Asif Ghafoor, the powerful head of the Pakistani military communications wing, sent a tweet saying "Well played Afgan Cricket Team".

Amid the congratulations, there was also criticism of the gunfire which regularly greets sporting success.

"Celebrating with gunfire is a shame, those who are interested in gunshots can join ANDSF, we need them on the battlefield," said Abdul Moqim Abdulrahimzai, a senior official in the interior ministry, referring to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. (Reuters)

(9) Afghan...

and friendship to the people of the countries," said Mohammad Seddiq Jaami, head of the cyclists' group.

The cyclists said they were warmly welcomed on their way to Turkey. "Azerbaijan will continue its cooperation with Afghan athletes," said Farhad Aliyev, deputy head of Azerbaijan's Cycling Federation. The cyclists said they traveled 2,000 kilometers from Herat to Istanbul city in Turkey.

"The cyclists succeeded to pass on the message of solidarity and peace to Lapis Lazuli member countries," said Afzal Ahmadi, a counselor at Afghanistan's Embassy in Azerbaijan. (Tolo news)

(10) Peach Yield up...

land and 150 acres more land would be allocated to peach gardens as well.

Grafted and inseminated 30 years ago, date trees in Helmand also produced a significant yield this year. (Pajhwok)

(11) Trump Arrives...

Trump had predicted that a U.S.-Japan trade deal could be finalized during his trip. But that's highly unlikely given the two sides are still figuring out the parameters of what they will negotiate. (AP)

(12) The EUROASIA ...

of EURASIA Forum. "Armenia has always been a crossroad for regional and international cooperation; it had the same role in the ancient Silk Road and has that role in the One Belt and One Road Initiative of China." He said.

Valentina Matiyenko, the Chairperson of the Federation Council of said that, Presence of Russia, China, and India is a unique opportunity for the Forum to play a key role at the regional and international level. Stressing on taking on a more practical role by the Forum, "It is necessary to turn the ideas to the action." She said. Highlighting the nature of the EURASIA Forum, "Our community is the community of Nations and Civilizations", she said, highlighting the nature of the EURASIA Forum.

Dr. Baige Zhao, Vice President of the National People's Congress of China, referring to the referring to the topic of De Globalization, said that there was difference between the DE globalization and New Globalization. "The United States fights for previous globalization to preserve their privileges." She said. Outlining the shortfalls of representative democracy, she said that, internet and digital age have paid the way for returning to the direct democracy.

At the XVI Forum, the speakers discussed new models of world development amid the emerging de-globalization, the rising crisis of consumption associated with the depletion of natural resources and food shortages. Besides, the participants and guests discussed new opportunities and challenges arising from the widespread introduction of artificial intelligence.

The forum speakers included Steve Bannon, a former Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor to the U.S. President, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, President of Euroamerica Foundation, and George Galloway, a British politician and journalist. (DOA)

(13) Pompeo Confirms...

Pompeo said, criticizing the Senate for stalling on the review of the deals.

Foreign arms sales normally require congressional review, but the law allows the president to skip legislative approval by declaring an emergency and citing "national security interests." The same method was used to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia in the run-up to the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Lawmakers have been refusing to give their seal of approval to the weapons sales, in part due to concerns over the reports of mounting civilian casualties in the Saudi-led bombing campaign in Yemen. Senator Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, blasted the Trump administration's decision to move ahead with the sales while sidestepping a congressional review.

"I am disappointed, but not surprised, that the Trump administration has failed once again to prioritize our long-term national security interests or stand up for human rights, and instead is granting favors to authoritarian countries like Saudi Arabia," Menendez said.

Without going into specifics of the deliveries, Pompeo said that the military equipment that to be

shipped to the Arab countries includes "intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), munitions, and other supplies." However, according to a report by Reuters that cited the notification sent to Congress, they would include offensive weapons. That had become the bone of contention between the White House and lawmakers.

According to a congressional aide cited by Reuters, Congress had in principle agreed to clear the way for defensive weapons sales, but refused to budge in on the offensive arms out of concern they might be used to bomb civilians in Yemen. (RT)

(14) India Explodes...

which both countries possess - comes on the backdrop of national elections in India and cordial diplomatic exchanges between the two nations' foreign ministers and their heads of state.

As the party of Indian PM Narendra Modi emerged from the elections victorious, markedly increasing their representation in the parliament, Pakistani PM Imran Khan offered Modi his congratulations in a tweet, saying he hoped to work with him "for peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia."

Modi responded with gratitude, stating that he prioritized "peace and development in our region." A similarly friendly exchange happened the day before between the two nations' foreign ministers. These mutual messages of peace, however, were also counter-balanced by a stern warning to Pakistan from India's envoy to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who reportedly said no talks between the two countries would take place until Pakistan demonstrates "immediate, efficient and verifiable" actions to curb terrorist groups operating from its territory. (RT)

(15) 'Rational Americans...

has never tried to attack Iran directly.

He added that Washington will not wage an open war against Tehran because its army will inflict great losses on the American troops and deliver a blow to Washington's "international prestige."

The US earlier deployed three guided-missile destroyers, the USS Mason, USS McFaul, and USS Gonzalez, to the Persian Gulf. They joined the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, currently operating off the coast of Oman, near the Gulf. This military buildup near Iranian waters coincided with reports of the Pentagon mulling sending more troops to Iraq, which borders Iran.

Relations between Iran and the US deteriorated dramatically after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the nation from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program last year and re-imposed sanctions. The move was slammed by a number of countries, including Washington's closest allies. (RT)

(16) Race to Replace...

Former foreign secretary Boris Johnson is the bookmakers' odds-on favourite, ahead of former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab.

Both have embraced the prospect of a no-deal Brexit.

But whoever takes over from May will like her face the same razor-thin majority in parliament, an EU with no intention of changing the divorce offer that MPs have rejected three times, and proponents both for and against Brexit who will never compromise.

Main opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said whoever wins the contest should call an immediate general election.

That too would be a risky move, with the newly-formed, single-issue Brexit Party set to triumph in the European Parliament elections when the results become clear on Monday. (AFP)