

### (1) Nangarhar Blast ...

an investigation of the attack, and noted that "attacks against places of worship are serious violations of international law that may amount to war crimes."

NATO also condemned the attack and stated that it "will stand with Afghanistan and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to fight international terrorism."

US ambassador John Bass in a tweet condemned the attack and offered his condolences to the victims and their families.

Bass said that "killing worshippers assembled together in peace is unconscionable" and that "all Afghans have the right to live and worship together in safety."

The European Union condemned the mosque incident in Nangarhar, saying the attack "aims at undermining hopes for peace and reconciliation."

The British Embassy in Kabul condemned the deaths of worshippers during Friday prayers in Nangarhar province and called for an end to the violence.

The UAE also strongly condemned the Nangarhar mosque attack and expressed its sincere condolences and sympathies to the families of victims.

Sediq Sediqi, President Ghani's spokesman, in a tweet strongly condemned the blasts and called out the Taliban for continuing to target civilians.

The Taliban has denied responsibility for the blasts. (TOLO News)

### (2) US-Taliban ...

some leverage in the peace process.

Meanwhile, Syed Rasool Musavi, a former Iranian foreign ministry official, criticized US talk with the Taliban saying the process involves replacement of republic with emirate.

He also said that there was a threat of replacing Taliban with Daesh. (ITV News)

### (3) Pine Nuts ...

their homes in winter.

They take the empty cones home against the day long work to separate nuts from cones. Yusuf, 27, who works to separate pine nuts from cones, said he arrived at work in the morning and left at 5pm in the evening.

"We collect cones to use them as fuel. We use them to heat up our homes in winter," he said.

Samiullah, 21, is another man who collects pine nuts cones in the ground for use in winter as fuel.

He hoped by collecting cones he would be able to protect his family from harsh winter. "We don't have money to purchase wood in winter, so we burn pine nuts," he said.

Haji Khaluddin, a businessman, who brought 70,000 pine nut cones for peeling, said around 30 people, including women and children, were busy with him separating pine nuts from cones.

He said this year 52 kilograms of pine nuts would cost 125,000 afghanis but the rate was going down with each passing day.

President Ashraf Ghani through a special decree has banned the smuggling of pine nuts out of the country and has directed security forces to seize smuggled items and refer the smuggler to law enforcing authorities. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Gold Price ...

Mohammad Samim, a wholesaler in Kabul's Mandavi Market, said the price of 49 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour was increased 1,580af, a tin of 16 liters of Khurshid ghee 1,160af, 49kg of Pakistani sugar cost 1,950af, 24kg of Pakistani rice 2,200af, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300af and the same amount of black African tea for 320af, the same rates of last week's.

Ahmad Mustafa, who owns a grocery store in Taimani area of Kabul, sold a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,620af, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,000af, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,500af a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,200af, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 320af and the same amount of black African tea for 360af—higher than wholesale rates.

The prices of fuel also remain unchanged. Mohammad Akram, a liquefied gas seller in Taimani area of Kabul city, said that the price of a kilogram of the commodity was 50af.

Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazirabad Fuel Station in Kabul said that the price of a liter of petrol was 52af and the same quantity of diesel 48af.

Haji Mir Hussain Sadaqat, a moneychanger at the Money Exchange Service in Sara-i-Shahzada, said one US dollar was accounted for 78.30af and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 500af.

On October 12, one US dollar was accounted for 78.15af and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 500af. (Pajhwok)

### (5) 18 Villages ...

woman and two children during the raids.

In a separate clearance operation, at least seven insurgents were killed in the Darqad district of Takhar province, the statement noted.

Afghan Army said that Bazar-e-Omari and Arpuli village of Darqad were cleared of Taliban, adding that the clearance operation is underway in the district.

However, the Taliban militant group said

in a statement that its fighters have pushed back the attacks of the Afghan forces in Baghlan and imposed casualties on them.

The group further claimed that at least 45 Afghan forces have also surrendered to the militants following clashes in the province, but Afghan security officials yet to make a comment on this regard.

Baghlan, Takhar, and Kunduz are among the volatile provinces of Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents have a huge presence in a number of its districts and usually carrying out attacks against Afghan forces in the area. (ATN)

### (6) 2 Years On ...

the minaret and vowed to launch work on the project in two days.

Syed Aqa Hussain Fazel Sancharaki, secretary broadcasting at the Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs, said 80 journalists have been killed in the country during the past 16 years. (Pajhwok)

### (7) China, US Make ...

Trump offered a temporary reprieve from tariffs planned for mid-October.

It did not however roll back any of the stinging import duties already imposed up to now on hundreds of billions of dollars in trade between the economic powers. Neither did it address another round of import taxes planned for December.

"Stopping the escalation of the trade war benefits China, the US and the whole world. It's what producers and consumers alike are hoping for," Liu said.

Trump last week said he hopes to sign the agreement with his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping at the APEC summit in Chile next month. (Press TV)

### (8) I Always Do What ...

three western rivers under the Indus Water Treaty.

Any attempt by India to divert the flows of these rivers will be considered an act of aggression and Pakistan has the right to respond.

Modi pledged during a rally in Haryana earlier this week to "stop" the waters flowing to Pakistan and "bring it to [farmers'] households" in Haryana and Rajasthan, promising supporters that work was already underway on the project.

On Friday, he elaborated on his plan to free farmers in Haryana from dependence on weather, which left India catastrophically dry until the monsoon earlier this month drenched the nation. Modi promised to invest 3.5 lakh crore rupees over the next five years to beef up irrigation systems in the state, including recycling household water for that purpose, along with diverting river waters.

Under the Indus Water Treaty, India and Pakistan share the waters of the six rivers that run through both countries. The 1960 agreement has not been broken despite three wars. India has rights to the waters of the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers – but about 5 percent of unused water from those rivers currently flows into Pakistan. (RT)

### (9) UK Brexit ...

If the amendment, put forward by former Conservative MP Oliver Letwin, is accepted, parliament will not get to vote on Saturday on whether to approve Johnson's withdrawal agreement.

"We want Members of Parliament to have the opportunity to vote on the deal," the spokesman said. "Our focus is on making sure that the Letwin amendment isn't passed."

Gov't to pull vote if Letwin amendment passes

Al Jazeera's Paul Brennan, reporting from Westminster, said Johnson's "centre of operations" had confirmed the government will pull the vote on his deal if the amendment to the motion put forward by Letwin passes.

The amendment, which if passed would force Johnson to request an extension to Brexit by the end of Saturday, is backed by a cross-party alliance of opposition MPs.

"This amendment would force a delay until legislation can be passed actually implementing the deal," Brennan said.

"It's a rather technical amendment, but it's designed to prevent the government pulling any fast ones with MPs and going accidentally-on-purpose to a no-deal Brexit on October 31," he added.

Corbyn slams deal as 'disaster for working people'

Main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn told parliament Johnson's deal risks jobs, rights, the environment and health service.

"This deal would be a disaster for working people," he said, adding it was "even worse" than the one it replaces, which was negotiated by Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, and rejected three times by parliament.

"Voting for a deal today won't end Brexit. It won't deliver certainty and the people should have the final say," Corbyn said.

He had earlier reiterated that Labour MPs would vote against the revised withdrawal agreement in a post on Twitter. (Aljazeera)

### (10) Millions March ...

toward Karbala chanting, "No to America,

no to Israel, no to corruption" and "Baghdad is free, corruption must go!"

In a message marking the day, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi vowed to "confront with strength and determination all forms of corruption and achieve justice."

The 77-year-old premier, who took office last year, has promised to address protesters' demands but has also told them there is no "magic solution" for Iraq's accumulated problems, including high unemployment, corruption, dilapidated public services and poor security.

Pilgrims streamed toward Karbala on foot from the cities of Najaf, 70 kilometers (45 miles) away, Baghdad, 90 kilometers (55 miles) to the north, and other places farther afield, resting along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

The pilgrimage, known in Arabic as the Ziara, marks the anniversary of the 40th day of mourning following the 7th century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle, cementing the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam. Hussein's half-brother Abbas was also killed in the battle.

Sunnis outnumber Shiites by a wide margin among the world's estimated 1.5 billion Muslims, and Shiite rituals are far less known.

But Arbaeen — Arabic for the number forty — draws far more pilgrims than the hajj in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrimage required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

The hajj is considered one of the five pillars of Islam and an obligation for all Muslims — Sunni and Shiite. The Ziara is voluntary and holds little significance in Sunni tradition.

In recent years, the Iraqi government says Karbala received 10-20 million visitors during the event. Saudi authorities regulate the hajj tradition tightly, driving up costs for pilgrims and depriving it of some of the spontaneity seen in the Ziara. For many Muslims who cannot afford to go on the hajj or cannot get the Saudi visa, the Ziara is a satisfying alternative.

In neighboring Shiite-majority Iran, Arbaeen is a national holiday. Thousands in Tehran marched toward a nearby town south of the capital to mourn at the shrine of Shiite saint Abdul Azim.

Iran's deputy interior ministry, Hossein Zolfaghari said that more than 3.4 million Iranians traveled to Iraq and 2 million of them have returned. (AP News)

### (11) Australian Police ...

The suspect, an Iraqi national, was arrested at Brisbane Airport on Friday evening and charged with "organizing groups of non-citizens to Australia."

He has been remanded in custody and is due to reappear in court on October 31. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. Two other individuals have already faced court over the Siev X incident.

"Let's not lose sight of the fact that more than 350 people died in this tragedy," Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw said in a police statement.

"They are owed justice and we remain committed to deterring those who profit from this trade."

Read more: Australian diplomat on refugee policy: 'We are not inhumane'

The Siev X sinking was controversial in Australia because it took place during an election campaign and at a time when border protection was a major issue. The country's two main political parties have sought to use the tragedy to justify harsh asylum policies, arguing they are necessary to deter people smuggling and boat arrivals. (DW)

### (12) Nearly 200 Injured ...

Monday even before the latest clashes erupted.

According to the interior ministry, 83 people were detained in the overnight violence, in addition to the 128 arrests police had reported before Friday's march.

- Smell of burning -

Early Saturday, the air in the Catalan capital was still heavy with a burning stench as municipal workers cleared the streets of broken glass, rocks and rubber bullets, and repaired pavements where bricks had been ripped out.

Around half a million people had rallied in Barcelona on Friday in the biggest gathering since Monday's court ruling as separatists also called a general strike in the major tourist destination.

While most marchers appeared peaceful, hordes of young protesters went on the rampage near the police headquarters, igniting a huge blaze that sent plumes of black smoke into the air, as police fired teargas to disperse them, an AFP correspondent said.

Other fires raged near Plaza de Catalunya at the top of the tourist hotspot Las Ramblas, where hundreds of demonstrators rallied in defiance of the police, who tried to disperse them with water cannon.

- 'Our streets' -

«Anti-fascist Catalonia!» they roared. «The streets will always be ours!»

Scores of police vans could be seen fanning out around the streets, their sirens screaming as the regional police warned people in a message in English on Twitter «not to approach» the city centre.

Earlier, many thousands of «freedom marchers», who had set out to walk from five regional towns on Wednesday, arrived in Barcelona wearing walking boots and carrying hiking poles.

The rally coincided with the general strike, prompting the cancellation of flights, the closure of shops, business and several top tourist attractions, and slowing public transport to a trickle in a region that accounts for about a fifth of Spain's economic output.

Activists also cut off Catalonia's main cross-border highway with France.

- «No surrender» -

In downtown Barcelona, many shops and luxury outlets were closed on the city's Paseo de Gracia, with blackened, charred patches a testimony to the nightly clashes that have raged since Monday.

«With these demonstrations bringing this large city to a halt, we are using Barcelona like a microphone,» said 23-year-old engineering student Ramon Pararada.

«It's all in reaction to the injustice,» he said. Retired lawyer Jaume Enrich said the court sentence was «the straw that broke the camel's back».

«Madrid is putting Spanish unity above everything, including basic rights,» he told AFP, wearing a badge saying «No surrender».

Spain's top tourist destination, the Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona closed as protesters massed outside, and the Liceu opera house cancelled Friday night's performance.

- Spain's Clasico postponed -

With the region mired in chaos, football authorities cancelled the Barcelona and Real Madrid Clasico set for October 26 at the Camp Nou stadium. Both clubs had reportedly refused an offer to hold the match in Madrid.

And Manchester City's Catalan manager Pep Guardiola, an outspoken campaigner for the independence movement, urged European intervention to ease the crisis.

«The international community must help us to solve the conflict between Catalonia and Spain,» he said. «Some mediator from outside (must) help us sit (down) and talk.»

The Supreme Courts' explosive decision has thrust the Catalan dispute to the heart of the political debate as Spain heads towards a fourth election in as many years, which will be held on November 10. (AFP)

### (13) Leave This Soil ...

after a group of protesters used ladders to gain entry to the walled-off grounds around Ambassador Harry Harris' residence. Nineteen students were detained after unfurling banners saying "Leave this soil, Harris."

"Stop interfering with our domestic affairs," they shouted, followed by other chants — "Get out," and "We don't need US troops" — before being escorted off the property by police.

The group said they were motivated by Washington's insistence that Seoul should pay to keep US troops on its soil.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Seoul said that the diplomatic mission was "seriously concerned about the illegal breach" and urged Korean authorities to do more to protect the compound.

American diplomatic and military outposts in the region are regularly targeted by protesters.

Last year, tens of thousands of protesters in Okinawa, Japan marched to stop the planned relocation of a US military base, demanding that the facility be removed from the island entirely. (RT)

### (14) We Do Not Want ...

gunmen took the city hostage, blocking off roads with burning vehicles, occupying toll booths, and surrounding the house where some 35 military and police forces had cornered Guzman.

Some 56 prisoners at nearby Aguazote prison escaped during the chaos, taking guards hostage, seizing their weapons, and commandeering vehicles at gunpoint as they rushed out into the streets. By Friday, 49 were still on the loose.

Numerous videos taken by shocked locals show heavily-armed men riding around in vehicles, some with mounted machine guns, terrorizing the city as civilians dived for shelter. Gun battles raged for hours between the cartel and the government.

Cartel gunmen sent several threatening videos to military commanders in the area, one showing army troops being held hostage and another showing a uniformed soldier executed with a shot to the head — though it was unclear if the latter was filmed on Thursday as the violence engulfed the city.

Heavily outnumbered, and with nine of their own men reportedly taken hostage by cartel forces, Security Minister Alfonso Durazo made the decision to retreat and release Guzman. Blaming a group of police eager to nab Guzman without consideration for the cartel's reaction, Durazo called the

arrest attempt a "failure," pointing out that they didn't even wait for a search warrant before rushing into the house.

A lawyer for the Guzman family said they would cover medical expenses for the wounded — and funeral expenses for the dead. «The family apologizes to the people of Sinaloa, and particularly to the people of Culiacan,» José Luis González Meza told a news conference on Friday.

«The message of the family, and of the mother of 'El Chapo', María Consuelo, and (the mother) of Ovidio, Griselda López, is of thanks to the President of the Republic, López Obrador... We have a human, Christian president, who finally did not make the decision to harm Ovidio.» Another family lawyer, Juan Pablo Badillo, praised «a manly order, an intelligent order, a sensible order» given by the president to release Guzman.

The city was still largely shut down on Friday, with schools closed, most public transportation offline, and businesses asking employees to stay home. The battle was the second clash between police and the cartels this week — the Jalisco New Generation cartel, a rival of the Sinaloa, ambushed and killed 13 police officers on Tuesday. (RT)

### (15) Calm Reigns in ...

Minister Hulusi Akar had urged his U.S. counterpart Mark Esper in a telephone call late on Friday to ensure that YPG forces withdrew from the zone within the 120-hour period agreed under the truce. Erdogan said on Friday the safe zone would run for some 440 km from west to east along the border, though the U.S. special envoy for Syria said the accord covered a smaller area where Turkish forces and their Syrian rebel allies were fighting.

Erdogan also said Turkey would set up a dozen observation posts across northeast Syria. (Reuters)

### (16) Uzbekistan Commits ...

Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Energy to design and tender the first PPP, which attracted eleven prequalified bidders and five competitive bids. This robust investor interest was groundbreaking in a country where the energy sector was traditionally state-run. At the same time, the World Bank has been working closely with the Government on key policy issues in the energy sector such as tariff reform, renewable energy development and investment planning.

"We are proud to support the positive momentum for private sector led growth in Uzbekistan — I am pleased to see the government moving quickly to tender another 900MW of solar power, which will help attract close to a billion dollars of private investment and generate reliable and clean energy for the country's people," said Georgina Baker, IFC Vice President, Latin American and the Caribbean and Europe and Central Asia. "The announcement of the two additional PPP projects immediately after the success of the first solar tender is a testament to Uzbekistan's commitment to embrace the private sector." (Tashkent Times)

## Minister of Justice Called on UK Legal Firms to Open Offices in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The English Law Day in Tashkent international conference is taking place these days in Tashkent. Speaking at the event, Minister of Justice Ruslan Davletov briefed foreign legal experts on the ongoing reforms in the legal profession.

"Many lawyers had complained about government bodies' interference in their activities. Many complaints were appropriate. Last year, the MOJ relinquished most of its powers in the field of advocacy. Examples include the scrapping of a lawyer's license. We have given this right to the courts. The process became more complicated. Previously, the territorial branches of the Ministry of Justice had similar powers. At the moment, it will be held in open court based on the decision of the High Qualification Commission," the Minister said.

In his speech, the Minister emphasized that lawyers and legal consultations had been divided into two areas.

The licensing procedure for legal advice was abolished. You no longer need a license to advise, just register with the Ministry of Justice. There are minimal requirements for this. All this work yielded immediate results. Chinese, US, and Russian law firms have opened offices. Examples include international law firms Duan & Duane, Yingke, White and Case, Dentons, he added. (Tashkent Times)

We also encourage our UK friends to open their offices in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is continues to open up. The country has great potential in the industry, he said. (Tashkent Times)