

### (1) Peace Talks...

round number: it's zero."

"Remember that Afghanistan gave us the worst disaster we have seen on American soil in our entire history, we do not want to hand it back to the people who did that," said Crocker. Trump earlier this month called off negotiations with the Taliban, and subsequently said the talks with the group are "dead." (Tolo news)

### (2) China Renews...

the security situation in Afghanistan had deteriorated.

China always condemned terrorism and supported efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan, the spokesperson added.

He said: "We are willing to strengthen cooperation with all parties involved in Afghanistan and work together for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan," (Pajhwok)

### (3) Electoral Bodies Sign ...

According to the agreement, the electoral commissions are trying impartially conduct transparent, fair and inclusive elections at the given time, she added.

She said based on the agreement, the electoral bodies would only consider the national interest during their duty.

The agreement stressed on the electoral commissions' independence and their freedom from being influenced by any internal or external power, Nuristani added.

Meanwhile, Zuhra Bayan Shinwari, Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC) head, said the electoral bodies had no issue against each other. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Afghanistan ...

Deputy Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan.

Officials said the agreement will help Afghanistan save \$600 million.

Afghanistan currently imports electricity from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, although a recent insurgent attack destroyed pylons carrying power from Uzbekistan, causing blackouts in Kabul and across a third of the country.

Amid the ongoing emergency, the US State Department on Thursday issued a statement criticizing the Afghan government's procurement policies, oversight committee, and financial management practices, related in part to energy projects. The US says it is not abandoning a large energy transmission project in Afghanistan's south, but it is withholding funds and cutting programs, "due to identified Afghan corruption" the statement said. (Tolo news)

### (5) Peace Doors ...

conflict had been imposed on Afghans who should sit together until lasting peace was achieved in the country.

He said, "All peace doors are open for Taliban and the only way to reach lasting peace is an intra-Afghan dialogue."

Mohammad Ihsan Zia, US Institute for Peace chief in Kabul said: "The war in our country has never been brought to an end or wiped out." He said some individuals claimed the US had brought this war to Afghanistan and the war's roots were inside the country and others should not be blamed in this regard.

The International Peace Day was celebrated in a number of other provinces as well on Saturday. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Herat: 30 Polling ...

the Taliban to launch massive attacks on polling stations.

Wakil Ahmad Karkhi, a member of the provincial council, polling stations faced closure due to lack of coordination among security forces.

He said Taliban attacks in rural areas led to closure of 69 polling stations in the province.

A number of civil society activists also urged the government to ensure that all polling stations were open and secure on the election day (Sept. 28).

Jawad Amid, a civil society activist in Herat City, told Pajhwok that security has direct impact on the elec-

tion's transparency and hoped security forces would ensure security for this month's election.

Meanwhile, Governor Abdul Qayum Rahimi said efforts were underway to ensure security of 300 polling stations and to keep open polling sites that currently faced high security risk in the province.

Around 571,000 eligible individuals have registered themselves to vote in the presidential election scheduled for Sept 28. (Pajhwok)

### (7) NPA Approves ...

"Afghan government institutions and leaders must be transparent and accountable to the Afghan people. We stand against those who exploit their positions of power and influence to deprive the Afghan people of the benefits of foreign assistance," Pompeo said in the statement.

"It has caused the international community to no trust us; the procurement authority action looks like a medicine that doesn't help us. Because aid was cut off, the international community mistrusts us and it is a blow to the nation, not the rulers," said Naqibullah Hashimi, a former member of the Kabul provincial council.

"Reclaiming \$160 million and not paying it back to the Afghan government does not help clean up the system, but it may be a strong warning to those government officials in Afghanistan to do their work transparently, quickly and effectively," political analyst Dawar Nadi said.

Spokespeople for Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), say that their company asked the National Procurement Authority five months ago to purchase fuel.

"Because of urgency it needed to be purchased, but it is natural that the procurement authority has its own processes," DABS spokesman Wahidullah Tawhidi said. (Tolo news)

### (8) Afghan Forces ...

neighboring Rashidan district over the past two days.

According to the official, no security personnel and civilians have been hurt during operations.

The ongoing operations would last until all the insurgents' infested areas are cleared in the restive province, the official said.

Local observers believe that retaking Jaghatu district would facilitate the security forces to target the militants in Ajristan and Malistan districts. Meanwhile, Taliban militants, obviously in a tit-for-tat response set on fire the headquarters of Darqad district in the northern Takhar province on Saturday night.

Commenting on the situation in Darqad district, Mohammad Jawad Hajari the spokesman for Takhar's governor said, "Taliban mission is nothing more than destruction" and said the security forces would regain Darqad district.

Government forces' onslaught left eight Taliban dead including a local commander Mawlawi Gul Ahmad in Zari district of the northern Balkh province on Saturday night, while a roadside bomb organized by the Taliban militants claimed the life of one police and wounded five others in Arghistan district of the southern Kandahar province on Sunday, provincial police spokesman Jamal Barikzai said.

Afghan government has been trying to shrink Taliban-controlled territory ahead of Sept.28 presidential elections and have recaptured seven districts over the past 10 days. (Xinhua)

### (9) The United Nations...

preferably to 1.5°C. The expectation was that they would ramp up their commitments over time, with the next round of NDCs expected in 2020. Next year is also when countries are expected to release their frameworks for reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Since the Paris agreement, a few countries, including Costa Rica, have begun to transition off of fossil fuels in earnest, and renewable energy has become dramatically cheaper. Yet global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise, the climate is

growing increasingly unstable, and three major countries — the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil — are balking at international cooperation on climate change. The US, the world's second-largest carbon emitter, is aiming to withdraw from the Paris agreement and saw its emissions rise last year after years of decline.

Guterres has told reporters that the summit is an opportunity to recognize the countries that are ahead of the curve and pressure other ones lagging behind. And it's coming just as a global social movement for climate action is erupting.

On Friday, massive international, youth-led climate strikes mobilized an estimated 4 million people to demand tougher action from governments to combat warming. "What I want is the whole of society putting pressure on governments to make governments understand we need to run faster, because we are losing the race," Guterres told Covering Climate Now, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets, on Wednesday. (Vox)

### (10) EU Is "In..."

the General Debate of the General Assembly, which is slated to begin on Tuesday at the UN headquarters. Juncker said earlier this week that he was "doing everything" to help secure a withdrawal agreement because he felt a hard Brexit, or a no-deal Brexit, would be "catastrophic" for both sides.

"It's better for Britain and for the European Union to have an organised deal," he said. (Xinhua)

### (11) 'Don't Send...

for the Persian Gulf that other regional countries can participate in. The plan will ensure peace and secure shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean, he said. The waterways have become a hotspot in recent months due to several high-profile maritime incidents involving oil tankers.

"We extend the hand of friendship to all our neighbors," the Iranian president said, promising to present his plan at the UN General Assembly in New York, where he is set to arrive on Monday.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has previously said Washington is working to build a coalition aimed at achieving a "peaceful resolution" to the crisis with Iran. Tehran called this a sham, stressing that only the Persian Gulf states can maintain security in the region, not outside powers. (RT)

### (12) Spain's Socialist...

center-right Ciudadanos and far right Vox.

The Socialists would gain 11 seats to win 134, a GAD3 poll carried out for Vanguardia newspaper showed, still not enough for a majority of 176. Podemos would lose 5 seats, the poll showed. The combined left-wing bloc of the Socialists and Podemos would again fall short of a majority.

The Socialists and Unidas Podemos were unable to form a coalition government after the April election despite months of talks.

A poll carried out by 40db and published in El Pais on Sunday gave similar results, with the Socialists and the PP gaining ground and the newcomers Unidas Podemos, Ciudadanos and Vox losing seats.

The polls paint a picture of a country no easier to govern than after April's election with no one party or political bloc winning a clear mandate to govern.

Despite Spain's political stagnation, its economy is doing well and ratings agency S&P raised its credit rating on the country to A from A- on Friday, citing balanced economic growth and improving budgetary condition. (Reuters)

### (13) Hong Kong...

from the forehead. Protesters also smashed video cameras and ticket booths in the station. Some started to trash fittings at the entrance of the mall. The protesters

then spilled outside where they set fire to barricades made of cardboard, broken palm trees and other debris.

Police fired tear gas after coming under attack from bricks dug up from pathways.

Violence has hit parts of the former British colony at different times over the last three months, but life goes on as normal for most people most of the time.

However, pictures of petrol bombs and street clashes broadcast worldwide present a huge embarrassment for Beijing just days ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic on Oct. 1.

The Hong Kong government has already called off a big fireworks display to mark the day in case of further clashes. China, which has a People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong, has said it has faith in Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to solve the crisis. (Reuters)

### (14) British Tanker...

accordance with the law and to enforce international sanctions while the Stena Impero was taken in an international shipping channel unlawfully.

On September 4 Iran released seven of the crew members on "humanitarian" grounds, leaving 16 Indian, Russian, Latvian and Filipino sailors on board — the minimum requirement to operate the ship. (The National)

### (15) U.K. Government...

proposal led by Fosun Tourism Group, its biggest shareholder.

The 178-year-old company is a dominant player in the U.K. travel industry and operates airlines in the U.K., Germany and northern Europe that shuttle its clients to destinations around the globe. As many as 150,000 Britons could be stranded abroad if the company collapses, the Financial Times reported.

The Travel Updates section of the company's website is dominated by posts on its financial situation, with Thomas Cook reassuring clients that its flights continue to operate as normal and all bookings are covered by a government-backed travel insurance program.

"We've got the contingency planning in place to make sure that in any worst case scenario we can support all of those who might otherwise be stranded," Raab said. (Bloomberg)

### (16) Two Flights...

production. The incident was claimed by Yemen's Houthis, but the US put the blame on Iran. Tehran has strongly denied all the allegations.

Although the responsibility was claimed by the military wing of Yemen's Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, Saudi Arabia and the United States have put the blame on Iran. Tehran has refuted the accusations. (Sputnik)

### (17) Imran Stresses...

Qureshi told reporters that the prime minister wanted to listen to Kashmiris from both parts of Kashmir ahead of his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 27

Qureshi said the main objective of prime minister's visit to the US was to highlight the Indian atrocities in the region.

Speaking to the media in New York, the foreign minister said PM Imran will hold meetings with heads of different countries and Kashmiri delegations.

PM Imran arrived in New York on Saturday to lead the Pakistan delegation to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister will address the 193-member Assembly on September 27 sharing Pakistan's perspective and position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and its current human rights and related dimensions.

He will enunciate Islamabad's position on key global and regional issues before one of the largest gatherings of leaders from around the world.

The prime minister will specifically focus on the deteriorating situation in the occupied region, particularly the grave violations of human rights taking place there, since August 5 when the Indian government revoked the

special status of Kashmir.

During his week-long visit to the US, the prime minister is expected to make a clarion call on the international community and the United Nations to live up to their promise of the right to self-determination of Kashmiris in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

On Monday, Prime Minister Imran is expected to meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. His first official engagement at the UN is a meeting with China's Vice President Wang Qishan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan during his seven-day visit, will hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts, including United States President Donald Trump on Monday. (Agencies)

### (18) Unlike Israel...

blamed Tehran for two separate attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman in May and June. Iran rejected the accusation, which the US leveled without offering any evidence.

Most of the US's allies have snubbed the plan, which they say will lead to tensions with Iran.

Larijani referred to the US-led mission as an act of adventurism which he said the Iranian Armed Forces would not allow to happen.

He censured the US and its allies for looking at Muslim countries as a tool for plundering the region.

"We believe that oppression, theft [of resources], bloodshed, and fratricide in the region amount to oppression against the entire Muslim nation, and the warmongering in Yemen is of that nature," the Iranian Parliament speaker said, referring to the Saudi-led war on Yemen. (Press TV)

### (19) Law Ministry...

who had been involved in corruption should not be provided protocol of political prisoners.

Following is the Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the NA, 2007.

The Speaker of Chairman of a Committee may summon a member in custody on the charge of a non-bailable offence to attend a sitting or sittings of the Assembly or meeting of a Committee of which he is a member, if he considers his presence necessary.

On a Production Order, signed by the Secretary or by any other officer authorized in this behalf, addressed to the Government of the Province where the member is held in custody, or to the authority concerned, the Provincial Government or such authority shall cause the member in custody to be produced before the Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall, after the conclusion of the sitting or the meeting, deliver the member into the custody of the Provincial Government or other authority concerned.

The debate of the issuance of Production Order has been sparked amongst ministers and members of the NA when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) approached and insisted the Speaker, Asad Qaiser, to issue production orders of PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, PML-N leaders Khawaja Saad Rafique and Hamza Shahbaz.

Several politicians and leaders of political parties are being probed for corruption by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other anti-graft bodies in separate cases. (Agencies)

### (20) Iran's Rial...

currencies a month later.

A series of measures adopted by the Iranian government this year helped control the prices in the unofficial market, allowing the rial to trade at a year-long high of 109,000 against the dollar in July. That surge this summer came right in the middle of heightened military tensions between Iran and the United States in the Persian Gulf.

Experts cite the relative stability of the price of the rial as a sign of the failure of the American sanctions. They believe Iran has managed to weather the impacts of the sanctions for the time being, allowing the country to further boost economic indicators regardless of growing American economic pressure. (Press TV)