

**(1) Intra-Afghan...**

envoys of China, Russia, and the United States in a meeting in Beijing agreed on an immediate start of the intra-Afghan negotiations which will also involve the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Meanwhile, Ghani said that a good order has been established in the country's municipalities and that corruption has been removed from the institutions.

Ghani said land grabbing is a crime and that "land grabbers" will be held accountable.

"Thirteen thousand land grabbers have been recognized and all the lands grabbed by them will be recovered," Ghani added. (Tolo news)

**(2) US General Assures ...**

by the Resolute Support forces in "certain areas".

He said that the Taliban and other militant groups have failed in their bids to capture more areas and centers of provinces.

"They have suffered heavy losses," Abdullah added.

Abdullah said that he wants the attention of Afghanistan's international allies in addressing the issue of terrorists' safe havens. (Tolo news)

**(3) Differently...**

"I want to follow whatever I like. Despite painting, I want to be the voice of the Afghan people. My songs are mostly about Afghan women as I want to be their voice." Hamid Hijran, head of the 4-member music group in which Robaba is a new member, said Robaba has a special talent in music.

"Robaba is a brave girl. She is an idol for the people of Afghanistan," said Hijran.

Members of the group, titled "the Voice of Afghan People", said they support peace in the country through music.

"I joined the group a year ago. Supporting peace is our main goal," a member of the group, Huma Mohammedi, said.

"We want to be a platform for the women who want to raise their voices," said Sadaf Hamidi, a member of the group.

Robaba's first song, composed by head of their group, is about prosperity and peace in Afghanistan which is the dream of every Afghan. (Tol news)

**(4) Afghanistan: Call...**

China in areas of education, health, sports, culture and capacity building. All sides reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening practical cooperation on achieving mutually beneficial goals of sustainable peace, development and prosperity.

In an effort to promote trilateral engagement, enhance economic cooperation and improve connectivity including through the Belt and Road Initiative, the CAPPD mechanism was established in 2017. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Wolesi Jirga ...**

the house on Sunday following the decision of the committee of panel heads.

He asked the internal security commission of the house to share concerns of lawmakers with the officials and share the result of summoning them with the house's next session. Presidential election

The campaign for the September 28 presidential election is scheduled to launch on July 27.

Eighteen figures including President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah are in the run for presidency.

Hamidullah Tokhi, a lawmaker from Zabul province, claimed that some candidates including Ashraf Ghani were using government resources for their election campaigns.

He asked the presidential candidates to get united and stop Ghani from using government resources for his election campaign.

Mohammad Alam Sayee, a lawmaker from Takhar province, said that election campaigns had begun earlier than scheduled by some candidates. However, he did not name anyone.

He expressed concern over the issue and said, "The president has also allocated 400 million afghanis of public money for celebration of the independence day in order to boost his own campaign, this amount of money is the expenses of 15,000 orphans for a year, there is no need to spend this much money in current situation."

A number of other public representatives also expressed concerns over the use of government resources in elec-

tion campaigns and asked the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to investigate the issue.

The Wolesi Jirga speaker said evaluation of the performance of the government was part of the house's responsibilities.

Peace

Seven rounds of peace talks between Taliban and the US have so far taken place besides three intra-Afghan dialogues in Qatar and Moscow.

The US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, said that the eighth round of talks would also start soon.

Fida Mohammad Ulfat Saleh, a lawmaker from Kabul, said that peace was the demand of all Afghans but public representatives in the lower house had no information about such talks.

He said there were different concepts about peace and those who represented the government in the peace process should be invited to the lower house to provide information regarding the process.

Abdul Raouf Ibarhimi said politicians and the Afghan government had no clear agenda for peace so far.

He asked for changes in the peace policy and said, "If we have a clear program and our politicians and the government coordinate with each other, we can use this opportunity for ensuring peace."

A number of other lawmakers also demanded clarification about the peace process from the government.

The Wolesi Jirga speaker called peace the duty of people and said that public representatives should be informed about the peace process and the future fate of the country. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Symbolic Coffins ...**

their hands and imprisoned themselves in cages and carried symbolic coffins of "Law" and Democracy" for several kilometers in Kabul City.

Dewa Nizai, a candidate from Nangarhar province, said nobody approached their lawful demands during the past three months.

"We have decided to take these two symbolic coffins to the Presidential Palace gate but we may face resistance from the gate's guards," she added.

Arezo Safi, another protesting candidate from Kandahar province, criticized police for not allowing them to hold a sit-in and said: "for this reason, we have to wear black clothes and tie our hands with chains." She warned of continued protest until their demands were met.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has already said that addressing demands of the protesting candidate was the responsibility of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) as the IEC had announced the final results of all provinces on the basis of IECC decision.

But the IECC has not yet commented about the issue of these 12 candidates. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Khalilzad ...**

public places, including schools, mosques and other civilian places.

On June 25, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in his visit to Kabul said he hopes that Afghanistan will achieve a peace deal ahead of the Presidential Elections - scheduled for September 28. (Tolo news)

**(8) Boost Trust ...**

public concerns about a level playing field for all candidates and stakeholders as well as autonomy of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).

"The ESG takes allegations of abuse of authority seriously and believes such accusations - whether real or perceived - warrant attention by the NUG leaders in order to reassure all candidates, the people of Afghanistan and its international partners, that the principles of fair competition will be respected."

The ambassadors asked the NUG leaders to publicly explain the measures being taken to ensure that government officials and state resources were not used to the advantage or disadvantage of any particular candidate.

The ESG also urged the BUG leaders to guarantee that the IEC and Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) would be given complete autonomy in the management of the electoral process.

"Both leaders should not only conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the election law and code of

conduct they signed, but to also set an example for other candidates."

The ESG encouraged NUG officials with a role in the election campaigns of both leaders to formally step aside from their positions for the duration of the election campaign. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Tajik Trucks ...**

truck into their two trucks and then transport them to their country."

Toryali Kakar, a provincial council member of Kunduz, said that heavy truck transports on the Kunduz-Shiberghan highway had caused damages to the road in many areas.

He accused some government officials of taking bribe from truck drivers to let them proceed with extra heavy loads on the highway.

Mohammad Zahid Yarmal, Kunduz public works director, told Pajhwok that customs officials should not allow truckers to load more than the permitted weight of goods in their trucks.

"Our scale in the border area has problem, only the customs scale is working, so the customs should not allow heavy loads," he said.

Yarmal said he had spoken with officials concerned in Kabul and Kunduz for finding a solution to the problem. Sher Khan Port officials refused to comment on the issue and said they were not allowed to speak in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Two Afghans ...**

"The Afghanistan-Pakistan drug cartels have recently adopted this novel method whereby the crude heroin is dissolved in a preservative solution and ordinary jute bags meant for carrying spices and condiments are soaked and dried in this heroin solution," Chandra said as quoted by News18.

News18 reports that the two arrested Afghan nationals were identified as Rahmat Gul Shinwari and Akhtar Mohammad Shinwari, from Zakir Nagar area. The two are chemical and mechanical experts.

The News18 says in its report that the operation is underway and more arrests are expected. (Tolo news)

**(11) Kunar Displaced ...**

combined with a severe drought, has prompted an almost doubling in the number of people in need compared to this time last year, newly displacing more than 550,000 civilians and pushing 3.3 million into emergency levels of food insecurity.

The report said that 6.3 million people require some form of humanitarian and protection assistance including 3.7 million in severe and major need due to a convergence of factors arising from exposure to escalating violence, forced displacement, the loss of essential livelihoods and limited access to basic services. (Tolo news)

**(12) 10 Civilians ...**

killed and another wounded in a helicopter strike in Joi Khwaja area of the same district around 5:30pm on Friday.

He said that he did not know whether the attacks were conducted by foreign or Afghan forces.

He asked foreign forces and the Afghan government to be careful about civilian lives during their combat operations.

Local Badghis officials refused to comment about the incidents and civilian casualties.

Pajhwok tried to contact the Ministry of Defense for a comment on the regard, but failed.

Civilian casualties caused by airstrikes are also reported from other parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

**(13) US Pressure...**

Iranian journalist and Middle East expert Abbas Aslani agreed that the US withdrawal was what triggered the crisis along with the "inaction of the Europeans."

The US might flex its military muscles in the Persian Gulf, but it's likely not looking forward to entangling itself in a major war with Iran, especially with the US presidential election inching closer. In part, it is because Iran has convinced the US that it would never be a short, victorious war.

"What [US President Donald Trump] might be after is a short and quick attack against the country, but Iran has made sure through the channels it has that no quick war will happen if the Americans attack the country."

Instead, the US would be looking at a long campaign that could see Iran attacking its military bases and interests in the region, the type of bog-down that can cost Trump his re-election.

This can be an all-out war in the region, which will be very bloody and costly.

Iran seized two British-operated vessels in the State of Hormuz on Friday, one of which has since been released after reportedly receiving warnings over safety and environmental issues.

The other vessel, the Stena Impero, is still in Iranian custody after being accused of maritime violations. Iran claimed that the tanker turned off its tracking device and ignored warnings before the seizure. The UK has denounced the incident as "unacceptable" but said that it hopes to resolve it through diplomacy. (RT)

**(14) 'Something Fishy...**

he and his daughter Yulia were affected by a toxic substance which the British government identified as the military-grade nerve agent called 'Novichok'.

London accused Moscow of ordering a hit on Skripal and charged two Russian nationals who traveled to Britain at the time of the poisoning of being a Russian military intelligence hit team. Moscow has repeatedly denied the allegation, urging London to hold a transparent investigation and provide proper consular access to the Skripals, whose whereabouts - and status - remain unknown. When asked about Skripal, Putin joked that he has no idea where he is because "he is a spy, he is always hiding." (RT)

**(15) Germany Marks...**

when news spread that Hitler had survived. Von Stauffenberg and his fellow plotters were executed within hours.

Merkel took the occasion to pay tribute to all who stood up against the Nazis in different ways, including people who hid Jews to save them from the death camps, the Jews who rose up in the Warsaw Ghetto to attack their Nazi captors in 1943, the Polish fighters of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and other partisans who fought against the German occupiers and others.

"Von Stauffenberg is a symbol of the resistance, but his story is not the only story of the resistance," she said.

Amid evidence of rising anti-Semitism and racism in Germany, Merkel said people need to draw inspiration from the civil courage shown by those who resisted the Nazis and make their voices heard.

"Instead of looking away or being silent, we need to be engaged," she said. On a wider scale, she said Europeans need to speak out and act against nationalism and populism.

"We need to think multilaterally, not unilaterally; global, not national; open not isolationist; together, not alone," she said to applause.

"Those are the tasks of today." (AP)

**(16) Hong Kong ...**

police, who have been accused of using rough tactics on protesters. Some waved Chinese flags, and a giant screen behind the stage for speakers read "Safeguard Hong Kong."

Many wore white, heeding a call by organizers, and the demonstrators did not wear masks or helmets, public broadcaster RTHK said. The anti-extradition law activists wear black and don protective gear against police pepper spray and batons.

Organizers said 316,000 people took part in the demonstration, while police put the turnout at 103,000.

Alick McWhirter, a senior bomb disposal officer, said the seizure of the explosives Friday was the largest of its kind in Hong Kong and called it troubling that such a dangerous substance was being made in a homemade laboratory in the middle of the city.

"It puts at risk everybody within the building. It puts at risk bystanders outside," he told reporters.

Police spokesman Tse Chun-chung said more arrests may follow.

Police have erected large barricades near government headquarters in preparation for the protest march through central Hong Kong on Sunday. Earlier marches have been largely peaceful, but in a recurring pattern, police have clashed with groups of mostly young protesters who try to take over streets or refuse to disperse after the main demonstration is over.

The extradition bill, which would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China to face trial, fueled broader concerns that the freedoms and legal rights of Hong Kong residents are being eroded.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, has declared the bill dead, but protesters are demanding her resignation and an

inquiry into the use of force by police to push back and disperse protesters. (AP)

**(17) AU to Deploy...**

AU's Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), as saying on Saturday.

According to the 55-member pan-African bloc, the decision to increase the number of volunteers is in response to the declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO), categorizing the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

"This is a declaration that is issued when an event is extraordinary, serious and has a potential to cross beyond the country where it is and have a regional or international effect from the public health perspective. It is an important declaration because it changes the way the Africa CDC will support the Democratic Republic of Congo to respond to this outbreak," said Nkengasong.

Africa CDC, which has been supporting response efforts in the DRC since August 2018, presently operates with 41 experts who were deployed in the field, some of whom are said to be AVoHC members.

The AU, which had previously deployed the AVoHC in West Africa to respond to the outbreak back in 2014 to 2015, said that the AVoHC "will also be very useful in the current outbreak."

The AU, noting that insecurity and attacks on health centers and health providers as a major challenge to response efforts in the affected provinces, also revealed that it will "engage with the United Nations security system to improve security for deployed experts and facilities so that response efforts can continue without interruptions."

"We will be working with the Government of the DRC very closely to better coordinate our efforts with other partners like the WHO," Nkengasong said.

Other plans to strengthen response include the procurement and provision of additional equipment and supplies, strengthening cross-border surveillance and laboratory systems, and a new approach to risk communication and awareness-raising at the community level, it was noted.

The African Voluntary Health Corps is a team of 800 epidemiologists, anthropologists, as well as communication, laboratory and logistics experts, from different African countries who are on standby for emergency deployment.

According to the AU, majority of the AVoHC members have been "trained and are ready to be deployed anywhere within the continent."

The Africa CDC, as part of its interventions in the DRC Ebola epidemic, has deployed some 41 experts who are in the theatre of response, and trained over 800 local health care workers and community volunteers.

The Africa CDC response interventions also include support to the government of the DRC with 3,000 laboratory cartridges for use in detecting Ebola, establishing six laboratories fully supported and run by Africa CDC staff members, the training of some 469 healthcare workers, traditional healers and teachers in infection prevention and control, it was noted. (Xinhua)

**(18) Bids Invited...**

including hiring contractual people to verify claims made by different creditors of the airline, said the newspaper report.

Since the Indian Insolvency and Bankruptcy law was enacted in 2016, around 12,000 cases have been filed of which around 4,500 cases have been resolved amounting to a settlement amount of 29 billion U.S. dollars while 1,500 cases have been admitted and 6,000 cases are waiting in queue.

Earlier this week, the Indian government cleared seven amendments to the insolvency law that seeks to put in place a 330-day deadline instead of the previous 270-day for corporate resolution process, including litigation and other judicial processes, as well as make resolution plan binding on all stakeholders. If the resolution does not take place within the stipulated period, the case goes into liquidation.

Commencing its operations in 1995, Jet Airways flew its last flight on April 17 and since then had grounded all its operations due to acute shortage of funds, leaving several thousands unemployed. (Xinhua)