

**(1) Khalilzad Welcomes...**

said that Khan promised to resolve the problem over the closure of Pakistan airspace to Afghan flights between Kabul and New Delhi. (Tolo news)

**(2) Afghan Women...**

peace in Afghanistan.

Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, the founder and CEO of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), say that it is quite significant for the Afghan women to set behind the negotiating tables to be part of the policymakers.

These diplomats say that the presence of the women in the peace talks speeds up the progress in the process.

Donald Stenberg, a former U.S diplomat in Afghanistan, says that the presence of women in the peace process and their awareness result in the progress of the peace process.

This comes as the majority of the Afghan women are concerned about their absence in the peace process as they have not been given any role by the Afghan government in the process. (ATN)

**(3) Canada: Afghanistan...**

A cenotaph that once stood at the Kandahar Airfield, honouring the more than 160 Canadians killed in the Afghanistan, is the centerpiece of the Afghanistan Memorial Hall. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Long Impasse...**

were casted and 123 votes secured by Mr. Rahmani is the majority," said Abdul Aziz Hakimi, an MP from Parwan province.

Meanwhile, Mirwais Yasini, a lawmaker from eastern Nangarhar province said that legal solutions are available to end the impasse.

Yasini hoped that a newly formed committee of ten members may solve the problem after Eid days.

About two weeks ago, lawmakers in the Afghan parliament divided after the interim speaker of the House announced Mir Rahman Rahmani, an MP from Parwan province, as the new speaker of the House and his rival rejected to accept his defeat. (ATN)

**(5) Afghan Taliban...**

of the talks, which they see as a means of reinforcing the Taliban and powerful regional politicians while sidelining the legitimate government.

The Eid message offered assurances that the Taliban did not seek a monopoly over power and would respect all the rights of male and female Afghans and develop education, commerce, employment and welfare.

But it did not tackle one of the key concerns in Kabul - whether the Taliban would accept the current constitutional framework of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or insist on an Islamic Emirate, the name given to their own system.

"The Islamic Emirate seeks the establishment of a sovereign, Islamic and inclusive government acceptable to all Afghans in our beloved homeland," the message said. (Reuters)

**(6) 7-Member Kidnap...**

we agreed to give them 500,000 rupees, but fortunately security forces rescued him."

The child, Iqbal, also said the kidnapers would beat him and would deny him food and the last day he was thrown a mud oven. "They would say we will cut off my hands and fingers if my father did not bring them money."

Paktia National Directorate of Security chief Maj. Gen. Qadar Mohammad Qadar said the child was found in a house in Balada area of Gardez after identification of the location. He said seven kidnapers were arrested and a car was confiscated during the

operation. He said the detainees had confessed to their crimes. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Naib Says...**

"The team has changed from four years ago, and the last couple of years we have improved very well in every department.

"We are just focusing on tomorrow. The World Cup is a big stage, and we are looking forward to doing our best."

Much is being made of Afghanistan's outstanding spin bowling contingent, with Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi all high of the one-day international bowling rankings.

Naib warned Australia his trio of twirlers could do some damage if the pitch is conducive to spin.

"We have a great spin department in our bowling attack, but it will depend on the wicket tomorrow," Naib added.

"I have a confidence in my team and players, especially with how we have prepared over the last 12 months.

"We beat Pakistan in our first warm-up game, so anything can happen.

"We know that Australia is a champion team, but we will give 100 per cent." (AFP)

**(8) Afghan Special...**

The anti-government armed militants including Taliban have not commented regarding the two operations so far.

Both Kunduz and Helmand are among the volatile provinces in northern and southern parts of Afghanistan.

Taliban militants are active in some remote and restive areas of the two provinces and often attempt to carry out terrorist related activities.

In the meantime, the Afghan forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations against both groups in the two provinces. (KP)

**(9) Over 180 Killed in...**

On May 30, two police officers and one civilian were killed by Taliban in the Qosh Tepa district of northern Jawzjan province.

Most of the casualties happened in Faryab, Jawzjan, Badghis, Balkh, Kabul, Khost, Baghlan, Maidan Wardak, Samangan, Ghor, Ghazni, Zabul, Sar-i-Pul, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Paktia, Kandahar and Paktika provinces, (Pajhwok)

**(10) Iran Showcases...**

last few seconds of the video briefly show the missile launch, though it's quite hard to tell if this section actually features the same location.

Back in February, Iran released rare footage of its missile factory, located within a whole "underground city." It was not immediately clear whether this new video was shot at the same location or somewhere else.

Iran's missile program has been repeatedly criticized in the West, which has urged the country to stop testing and expanding its arsenal. Tehran, however, has maintained that the missiles are needed solely for defensive purposes and the whole program cannot become the subject of any negotiations. (RT)

**(11) Pope Urges...**

barrier to co-existence.

"Complicated and sorrow-filled situations from the past must not be forgotten or denied, yet neither must they be an obstacle

or an excuse standing in the way of our desire to live together as brothers and sisters," he said.

In his homily, Francis said God wanted "that we not let ourselves be robbed of our fraternal love by those voices and hurts that provoke division and fragmentation."

Francis was to have flown by plane from Bucharest to the city of Bacau and then by helicopter to the Sumuleu-Ciuc shrine in this town nestled in the mountains.

But thunderstorms, low clouds and

rain forced him to fly to the city of Targu Mures, on the other side of the Carpathian mountains, and be driven for to the site. (Reuters)

**(12) China Says...**

separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will protect the country's sovereignty at all costs."

China translates the Chinese word "tong yi" as "reunification", but it can also be translated as "unification", a term in English preferred by Taiwan independence supporters who say the Communist government has never ruled the island, so it cannot be "reunified".

Earlier, Shanahan told delegates at a defense forum in Singapore that the United States would no longer "tiptoe" around Chinese behavior in Asia, with stability in the region at threat on issues ranging from the South China Sea to Taiwan.

Shanahan did not directly name China when he spoke of "actors" destabilizing the region, but went on to say the United States would not ignore Chinese behavior.

However, Shao responded by saying it was the United States that was destabilizing the region with its recent actions. In May, a U.S. warship sailed near the disputed Scarborough Shoal claimed by China in the South China Sea, angering Beijing at a time of tension over trade between the world's two biggest economies. (Reuters)

**(13) South Korea...**

Hanoi summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim in February failed to reach an agreement, Jeong said it was still a meaningful event showing that open and candid discussion can be held between the two leaders.

"In order to hold on to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for denuclearization, it's important to continue the momentum of dialogue generated through the summit talks," Jeong said, adding that the DPRK also needs to be assured of "a bright future of peace and prosperity."

He asked for patience in the denuclearization talks as the mistrust built in the past 70 years can't be cleared in just one and a half years. He also called on the international community to lower sanctions against the DPRK, and to provide humanitarian aid. (Xinhua)

**(14) Trump Tariff...**

tomatoes imposed after Washington announced in March it was ending a longstanding agreement over alleged Mexican dumping of the fruit. If the new duties do take effect, Esquer is looking at another 5% being slapped on his products — potentially increasing to 25% in subsequent months — unless Mexico does more to stop illegal migration through its territory by a June 10 deadline per Trump's demand.

"Right now more than anything there is a reaction of disbelief with everything that is going on," Esquer, who's been sending tomatoes and other crops to the United States for 60 years, told The Associated Press by phone during a break in the meetings.

"It also goes against the spirit there is between both countries, the agreements we have, the bilateral trade we have, which is very successful," Esquer continued. "On the other hand, we'll have to wait for the reaction of U.S. exporters to Mexico, because they are also going to see their exports threatened if Mexico launches some kind of mirror policy."

From berries and automobiles to machinery and household appliances, all of Mexico's exports stand to be hit with the tariffs. Avocado growers in Michoacan, electronics factory workers in Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas, auto parts exporters, all would feel the pinch. (AP)

**(15) Mecca Summit...**

the 57-member bloc, marked by the notable absence of Iranian and Turk-

ish leaders, called for a "boycott" of countries that have opened diplomatic missions in the city.

Trump broke with decades of bipartisan policy to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in December 2017.

The OIC's statement comes as Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner prepares to roll out economic aspects of his long-awaited Middle East peace plan at a conference in Bahrain later this month.

The plan, which has been heavily talked up by Trump and dubbed his "deal of the century", has already been rejected by the Palestinians, who say the president's policies have shown him to be overwhelmingly biased in favour of Israel.

The Palestinians see the eastern part of the disputed city as the capital of their future state.

Kushner, who was in Jerusalem on Friday on the latest leg of a regional tour to sell the plan, had looked to an alliance with Saudi Arabia against Iran as a way to gain Arab support.

But Saudi King Salman told leaders of the OIC countries gathered at the summit: "The Palestinian cause is the cornerstone of the works of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and is the focus of our attention until the brotherly Palestinian people get all their legitimate rights.

"We reaffirm our unequivocal rejection of any measures that would prejudice the historical and legal status of Quds (Jerusalem)." (AFP)

**(16) UK Volunteers...**

would have had the bomb first and they would have won the war. They would have won the war then — if Normandy had failed."

As the wartime allies prepare to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, people around Britain are also remembering the Americans who paved the way for the invasion, including sailors who helped keep supplies flowing across the North Atlantic and air crews that flew bombing missions over occupied Europe.

From 1942 to 1945, more than 2 million U.S. military personnel were stationed in Britain. People across the country still commemorate that friendly invasion, which bolstered the nation's defenses and gave many their first taste of America. From Portpatrick on the west coast of Scotland, where a plaque marks the site of a plane crash that killed 22 American airmen, to the Norfolk farm where Woodrow raises Old Glory, Britain is dotted with memorials to U.S. servicemen.

Some are formal affairs funded by public money, like the Cambridge American Cemetery, which houses the remains of 3,811 war dead, and the American Air Museum a few miles away, where the silhouettes of 7,031 lost aircraft are etched into a curving wall of glass.

But most are impromptu shrines built and tended by local people to honor those who died and to remember the thousands of others they drank and danced and fought with.

There was no government master plan to make this happen. The memorials just sprang up organically, particularly in southeastern England, where most of the U.S. air bases were located because of the proximity to occupied Europe.

Volunteers look after memorials in village squares, on corners of former airfields, at crash sites. Museums have been placed in former control towers. World War II memorabilia collections are preserved in pubs. (AP)

**(17) India Hopeful...**

relationship, in particular in the area of economic ties, there are ongoing issues which get resolved mutually from time to time, said the statement. "We view this issue as a part of this regular process and will continue

to build on our strong ties with the U.S., both economic and people-to-people," it added.

India is said to be the world's largest beneficiary of GSP, which dates back to mid-1970s. It's believed that ending its participation would not only be the strongest punitive action against the country, but would also open a new front in the global trade war. (Xinhua)

**(18) Iran, Tajikistan...**

Iranian and Tajik diplomats lauded the two countries' shared history and huge cultural commonalities in a meeting in Dushanbe, and voiced the two countries' determination to further strengthen bilateral relations. During the meeting Saberi conveyed the greetings of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to the Tajik top diplomat.

The Iranian new envoy said the aim of his mission is to promote all-out ties between the two nations and governments.

The Tajik minister, for his part in the meeting, welcomed the new ambassador and underlined unique shared heritage of language, culture, religion, history and civilization of the two nations.

Considering new atmosphere in bilateral relations and beginning of works of both ambassadors, for sure common cooperation between the two countries will be expanded and promoted, he added.

A week earlier, Tajikistan's Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda, in a meeting with Iran's outgoing Ambassador Hojatullah Faqani, said that Dushanbe is determined to increase economic and commercial relations with Tehran, calling for increase in volume of trade between the two countries.

"Our leadership emphasizes the expansion of economic, commercial and investment cooperation with Iran. We demand an increase in the volume of trade exchanges, especially the strengthening of investments and presence of Iran in the agricultural, energy, industry and tourism sectors of Tajikistan," Rasulzoda said, during the farewell meeting with the leaving Iranian ambassador. Saying that the capacities of the two countries are far beyond their current trade figures, the Tajik Prime Minister reiterated, "It is necessary to take various measures, especially in the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation of the two countries, as well as setting up trade fairs and conferences, strengthening the private sector and inter-provincial and inter-city cooperation to realize these capacities."

Rasulzoda also hailed Iran for its investment in Tajikistan's major infrastructure projects, including the construction of the Sangtudeh-2 power plant, the Esteqlal Tunnel, and Rogun Dam and power plant, and called for the development of such joint cooperation.

The Iranian diplomat, for his part pointed to Iran and Tajikistan's commonalities and said that in recent years, certain third parties have been trying to exploit and sow discord between the two countries. But they have fortunately failed thanks to determination of the high-ranking authorities and presidents of the two nations, he underlined.

Earlier in mid-February, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said that Tehran is eager to further expand ties with Dushanbe as it considers its ties with Tajikistan as "familial".

"Relations between Iran and Tajikistan are deep and based on shared and old roots. Such bonds, which are legacies of the remote past, cannot be ignored," Qassemi said.

His remarks came after Tajik Foreign Minister Muhriddin said a couple of days earlier that Dushanbe is taking efforts to improve its relations with Tehran. (FNA)