

**(1) Ghani Discusses ...**

The Prime Minister welcomed the steps toward peace in Afghanistan that President Ghani has taken, as well as his talks with Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan. The Prime Minister reiterated the UK's support for these efforts," A Downing Street spokesperson said. (Tolo news)

**(2) Political Parties ...**

Nang said those violating the law would be dealt with sternly and introduced to the Attorney General Office (AGO).

He further said all those individuals observing the voter registration process could get credential letter from the commission.

He acknowledged there had been some problems with regard to observation of the recent Wolesi Jirga elections but said such mistakes should be avoided in the upcoming presidential election. Around one million observation cards would be increased in the IEC database system this time, said Nang.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News it was not yet known how much observation cards would be distributed.

Abdul Khahir Mohmand, IEC head for foreign relations, told the press conference that there were some challenges at the recently held Wolesi Jirga polls such as technical problems, weak internet and database.

He said observation cards would be issued online as well and the demanders could register their documents in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Pakistan Reiterates ...**

Said a statement from the Pakistan High Commission in London.

Qureshi highlighted the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) as a mechanism for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and to have constructive engagement.

Currently on a visit to the UK, Qureshi and Pompeo discussed bilateral relations and regional peace and security. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Afghans Pull ...**

"The Inquiry remains confident that it will get to the truth of the matters under scrutiny despite the withdrawal of the Afghan villagers as core participants," prosecutors said in a statement. Two weeks ago, the Inquiry -- in response to previous concerns of counsel for the villagers -- had proposed travel to Afghanistan to hear evidence directly from the villagers.

"It has carefully struck a balance between safeguarding classified information and the identity of all witnesses while meeting the principles of justice."

The withdrawal of the Afghan villagers would not significantly impact the Inquiry's work as it had a wide range of information and sources available to it, the statement added.

A spokesman for the Department of Internal Affairs said the inquiry remained confident it would "get to the truth" of what happened in Afghanistan in August 2010.

Human rights lawyer Rodney Harrison QC told reporters his clients had lost confidence in the \$7 million Operation Burnham inquiry.

The villagers were completely disillusioned with the process that had heard the vast majority of evidence behind closed doors, the lawyer was quoted as saying. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Norway Asked ...**

deportation is completed it will split the family, endanger these three young people's live and rob them of their futures," he said.

Taibeh Abbasi was born in Iran to Afghan parents and fled to Norway with her mother and brothers in 2012. She is a brave human rights defender, speaking out for her family, who have been fully supported by their local community in Trondheim.

The Norwegian government has justified the family's deportation by claiming that Afghanistan is safe for returns. "This claim is contradicted by the record-high levels of violence documented across Afghanistan. Earlier this month, the Institute for Peace and Economics described Afghanistan as the 'least peaceful' country in the world," The Amnesty International said.

The whereabouts of the family in Istanbul are unknown but it is believed that they have had no access to information or contact with the outside world since they were put on a plane early on Saturday. (Tolo news)

**(6) Pakistan...**

and assets by sharing everything with migrants from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, who migrated along with Prophet Muhammad, he added.

"For the last 40 years we are hosting the Afghan refugees. Now the time has come that the global community should fulfill their promises and help Pakistan and Iran to resolve Afghan refugees problems" he said.

The UN refugees agency, UNHCR, praised Islamabad and Tehran for hosting Afghan refugees and said it would support host communities in refugees' host countries.

Afghan Minister of Refugees and Repatriation for Afghanistan Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi also thanked Pakistan and Iran for hosting refugees and requested an extension of the timeframe for repatriation of Afghan refugees as his country still has issues of security.

The legal stay of 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees would end June 30. The Iranian Deputy Minister for Interior Hossein Zolfaghari said his country extended several facilities to refugees living in Iran.

"Iran has enhanced services for Afghan refugees, issued driving licenses, regularize parts of the population and has been issuing 550,000 work visa annually," he said. (Monitoring Desk)

**(7) Citizens Donate ...**

blood by their own and without consulting doctors, an issue he said was dangerous and probably the blood donor in such cases could transmit virus to other person.

Tanaz, a 13 years old girl who is suffering from anemia, told Pajhwok Afghan News that she frequently visited the blood bank for receiving blood for the last few years.

She thanked those who donated blood and said, "Every drop of your blood is a new life for us."

Dr Richard Peeperkorn, World Health Organization (WHO)'s representative for Afghanistan, said it was pleasing that blood donation had become a culture in Afghanistan.

He said the Afghan people were strong and they were able provide blood to their fellow beings.

Enayatullah, head of Afghanistan Blood Bank, also said more people were visiting the bank for donating blood which he said had solved the shortage of blood.

However, he said financial problems, complicated procurement process, shortage of equipment and of professional personnel were challenges the blood bank was struggling with.

Abdul Ghafor, a resident of Kabul, who donates blood once in each eight months, said donating blood was good for a Muslim both for their health and hereafter. (Pajhwok)

**(8) 7 Provinces Get...**

Karimi said contracts of another nine projects for improving nomads livelihood were also signed today following a presidential order.

These nine projects include construction of five irrigation canals and providing potable water to nomads, he said, adding the projects would cost 21 million afghanis.

He said 31,000 nomads would get benefit of these projects when implemented. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Bamyanis Seem...**

lukewarm participation of people in the voter registration process, he hoped the turnout would increase.

According to him, around 120 polling stations have been approved by the IEC for presidential election.

"About 52 percent women and 48 percent men had participated in the Wolesi Jirga elections, which showed 80 percent turnout in Bamyani," he added.

Without giving information about the number of people registered as voters, he said the central office had set up some restrictions regarding the number of voters.

Pajhwok reporter visited some voter registration centers and found that less than 10 individuals visited these centers for registration on a daily basis. He said he spent more than one hour in a center but saw no one arriving for registration.

Meanwhile, Ali Mohammad, a resident of Panjab district, told Pajhwok that due to a fewer number of voter registration centers, rural people could not go to certain centers for registration. In the Wolesi Jirga vote, he said facilities had been made by candidates in registration process but no such measures had been taken for the presidential elections.

Marzia Rafiee, a civil society activist, said residents could not go outside their villages and homes because it was summer and they were busy in agricultural activities.

But people would surely register as voters if mobile teams went to rural areas, she added. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Thousands ...**

involved in land grabs and their abettors would be punished in line with the law. According to reports, 3,000 acres of vacant state land in Kabul City and 200,000 acres in different districts of Kabul exist and under threat of being usurped. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 50 Die in Fighting ...**

He said that narcotics is known as the main source of revenue for terrorism that generates billions of dollars every year. "Joint and coordinated action is required to fight this evil phenomenon," he added.

"Similarly, countering financial crimes is key to ensuring the national security of our states; fight against money laundering, illegal money transactions through unregistered hawala systems, fundraising for terrorism through unmonitored charities in the region are a must," he said.

He pointed out that to border cooperation and said that "thousands cross borders in our region illegally to join terrorist groups, receive training, and target our citizens".

He said that joint cooperation to manage our borders in the region, share information in real time, and equip border forces with the required technology is important to fight hybrid threats.

Mohib mentioned that cybercrimes are another means of hybrid warfare which is threatening the countries in the region.

"Afghanistan stands ready to enter into bilateral and regional partnerships through MoUs to limit and eliminate the use of the cyberspace by destructive elements that create terror in our societies and prevent us from development," he said. (Tolo news)

**(12) Taliban Attack ...**

The detainee was responsible for planning attacks in Kabul and preparations for insurgent activities, alleged Rahimi. Some documents, hand grenades, weapons and ammunition were recovered during the raid on Zmarai, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(13) In Kandahar...**

their daughters from attending school after attaining maturity. Samim said the education department was trying to raise awareness among the people about the importance of education, particularly for girls.

Samina, who recently graduated from the Zarghona Ana High School, told Pajhwok concerted efforts were needed to increase the number of girl students. She expressed happiness over completing her school education despite problems. She underlined the need for quality -- an atra where Kandahar was lagging..

Women Affairs Director Ruqia Achakzai hailed the increase in the number of female graduates as good news. However, she urged greater efforts to promote girls' education. She added there were 19 schools and two seminaries for girls, with 15 principals and 750 teachers. Kandahar has around 340,000 students, including 80,000 girls. (Pajhwok)

**(14) US Sending Troops...**

by President Barack Obama, he reinstated stiff economic sanctions, leaving the European and other partners in the accord struggling to keep Iran on board.

Iran's announcement that it would not abide by a limit on uranium stockpiles established under the 2015 agreement puts the U.S. in the awkward position of demanding that Iran comply with a deal that Trump derides as the worst in history.

"We continue to call on the Iranian regime not to obtain a nuclear weapon, to abide by their commitments to the international community," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said Monday.

The U.S. accuses Iran of attacking two tankers near the Persian Gulf; the Iranians deny responsibility. With details murky and no one owning up to the attacks, the Pentagon released new photos intended to bolster its case.

In announcing the new deployment, acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said the forces are "for defensive purposes to address air, naval, and ground-based threats" in the Mideast. "The United States does not seek conflict with Iran," Shanahan said, describing the move as intended "to ensure the safety and welfare of our military personnel working throughout the region and to protect our national interests." (AP)

**(15) Kim Jong Un ...**

When Kim turned 12 in 1996, he was sent to a prestigious private school in Bern, Switzerland where he lived with a fake identity, allowing him to escape

the scrutiny of any authorities.

But his former classmates told the author of the book that rather than being an exceptional child, Kim lacked academic vigor and had a quick temper.

The teenage Kim often lashed out against his peers, kicking them in the shins and even spitting on them if they spoke in German. He himself struggled with the language.

Despite being subjected to a world-class education and European culture, Kim didn't embrace the progressive views on freedom or democracy and instead concluded that "if he were to live in the outside world, he would have been entirely unremarkable. A nobody," the author wrote in POLITICO.

"Far from persuading him to change his country, these years would have shown him the necessity of perpetuating the system that had turned him, his father and grandfather into deities," she added.

The talks between the U.S. and North Korea have been halted following a failed February summit that was abruptly ended by President Trump, who said Kim wanted sanctions lifted prior any material changes to the country's nuclear program.

The U.S. accused last week North Korea of breaching U.N. sanctions on the import of refined petroleum via illegal ship-to-ship transfers -- a move that marks a contrast to the warmer rhetoric directed at the North Korean regime coming from the White House.

At the same time, Trump also said he received "a beautiful letter" from Kim and shrugged off a Wall Street Journal report that Kim's half-brother was a CIA source, telling reporters he would tell Kim that he "would not let that happen under my auspices." (Fox News)

**(16) India's Population ...**

have 1.4 billion inhabitants by that time. Runner-up Nigeria is not lagging far behind, and is expected to add 200 million people by 2050. Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, and the US are the other seven countries that will be driving the world population growth in the next 30 years, according to the report.

But the biggest jump in population size will happen in sub-Saharan Africa, where it will grow two-fold by 2050, a development that might further strain the fragile social systems of the countries.

"Many of the fastest growing populations are in the poorest countries, where population growth brings additional challenges," DESA Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin said in a press release Monday.

Although the figures are stunning, population growth is slowing and is expected to come to almost a standstill. At the moment, the average number of births per woman is 2.5, but by 2050 it is projected to drop to 2.2, putting the world on the brink of population decline. A rate of 2.1 births per woman is considered to be barely enough to sustain the population, which is expected to reach its maximum by the end of the century at 11 billion.

The lower number of births per woman will hit hardest 55 countries that are set to see their populations decline by at least one percent. The pack is led by China and followed by other countries, many located in Eastern Europe or the Caribbean. Lithuania and Bulgaria will suffer the biggest decline, seeing their populations shrink by 23 percent by 2050. Latvia, with an estimated 22 percent decline, is followed by the Wallis and Futuna Islands (20 percent), and Ukraine (20 percent).

While researchers sound the alarm over the rapid population growth in the developing world, they also point to the growing number of people 65 and older that constitute an economic burden. While only one in 11 people is currently in this age group, by 2050, one in six will be 65 or older. In some regions, such as Asia, Latin America, and Northern Africa, the proportion of the elderly population is expected to double by 2050, the study notes. (RT)

**(17) Airbus Attempts ...**

that the Boeing horror "highlighted and underlined the need for absolute, uncompromising safety in this industry," but says his company's sales strategy has not changed. Airbus is focused on convincing regulators and passengers to embrace the pilotless planes the company can already build. "Technology-wise, we don't see a hurdle," he said - it's merely a matter of "perception in the traveling public" and getting the regulators' go-ahead.

The last pilot to survive flying the doomed Lion Air Boeing 737 MAX that went down in October was able to manually override the aircraft's faulty

flight control system when it tipped the plane's nose down. But what if there were no pilot on board? While Airbus sees single-pilot operation as an intermediate step, its end goal is to remove humans from the equation entirely - meaning passengers have no choice but to trust the computer.

Aircraft manufacturers - and airlines - like pilotless planes for the same reason that Boeing liked packaging the safety measures that could have saved passengers' lives as add-ons - they'll save a lot of money. Research conducted by Swiss bank UBS found removing the pilot from the equation could save airlines over \$30 billion per year by optimizing flight paths and eliminating the need to train and pay human pilots - savings which would theoretically be passed on to passengers.

But half of respondents to a 2017 survey UBS conducted would not fly in a pilotless plane, even if the ticket was cheaper - and this was before the Boeing crashes destroyed our faith in on-board computers. A mere 17 percent of survey respondents said they'd take a flight with no human crew, though younger people were more likely to be open to the idea.

Two-pilot cockpits have been the norm in commercial aviation for decades, and many airlines made the setup mandatory after a 2015 crash in which a Germanwings pilot flew an Airbus A320 into a mountain. The industry is reportedly facing a shortage of trained pilots, however - Boeing in 2017 estimated that 637,000 pilots would be needed over the next 20 years, while just 200,000 have been trained since the dawn of the airplane age. (RT)

**(18) World Bank...**

country manager for Uzbekistan, said in a statement.

"This DPO provides additional support as the focus of reform shifts from regulatory changes to more complex institutional reforms, which are necessary to support private sector growth, increase job creation, and ensure greater social inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens," he said.

The World Bank supports Uzbekistan through 22 projects totaling over 3.6 billion dollars, according to the World Bank.

Uzbekistan has been carrying out economic reforms in the last two years to attract foreign investment. (Xinhua)

**(19) Hong Kong...**

by some 2 million people worried that the legislation would further compromise the dwindling autonomy of the former British colony.

Asked repeatedly for a reassurance that she was dropping the bill that would allow some Hong Kong suspects to be tried in mainland Chinese courts, Beijing-appointed Lam would only say she would not revive it without certainty of its acceptance.

"In recognition of the anxiety and fears caused by the bill in the last few months, if we don't have confidence from the people we will not proceed with the legislative exercise again," Lam said.

"I will not proceed with this legislative exercise if these fears and anxieties could not be adequately addressed," she said.

The latest round of protests behind them, Hong Kong legislators were due to meet Wednesday. A proposed vote of no confidence by pro-democracy lawmakers was on the agenda, but they are outnumbered by pro-Beijing members. Officials were also due to be asked about complaints of police brutality against some protesters.

Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy member of the city's Legislative Council, called Lam's appearance before news media Tuesday "completely unacceptable."

"She refused to address the demands of the entire Hong Kong community," Mo said, noting that Lam herself admitted that the remaining three years of her term would likely be "very, very difficult."

Mo said "we will fight on as usual with and without the legislature for Hong Kong's true democracy campaign."

"Not only is this apology not sincere, it is fake. We need to point out that Carrie Lam has created a governing crisis," said Joshua Wong, a dissident who joined the protests Monday after his release from a 1-month prison term related to his involvement in demonstrations in 2014.

Wong said that while he was behind bars some prison staff, who are government civil servants, told him that they had joined recent protest rallies.

Many in Hong Kong fear a further weakening of the territory's legal autonomy at a time when Communist-ruled China is growing increasingly authoritarian. Samson Yuen, a professor at Hong Kong's Lingnan University, said the extradition bill is like a "knife at the throat" for many in Hong Kong. (AP)