UN Family Extends Warm Regards to Afghans on Nowruz

KABUL – The United Nations family extends warm regards to all Afghans on Nowruz as the country marks the beginning of spring and a new year.

“The United Nations family joins Afghans in their celebrations and shares the hope of all Afghans that the new year will bring peace across the country,” said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The United Nations will remain firm in its commitment to supporting the Afghan people.

Afghanistan Contributes $1 Million to SAARC Coronavirus Emergency Fund

KARL – The Afghan government has approved a contribution of one million USD for an emergency fund established by SAARC countries to tackle the coronavirus.

“The Afghan Government has just approved a contribution of One Million USD to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund as per the discussions in SAARC heads of nations VLC, in joint collaboration, and strengthening partnership to fight this pandemic,” presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said on Twitter.

Addressing SAARC leaders via video on March 15, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed the emergency fund with an initial offer of $10 million from India for the purpose. Afghanistan has confirmed 24 cases of coronavirus in the country. (UNI-NSH)

Chinese Billionaire Sending 1.8m Masks to Afghanistan, 9 Other Countries to Combat Coronavirus

BEIJING - Jack Ma, Asia’s richest man, pledged 1.8 million face masks, 210,000 test kits and 550 protective suits plus ventilators and thermometers to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka. Delivering fast is not easy, but we’ll get it done!, the Chinese billionaire and founder of Alibaba Group, said in a LinkedIn post.

The Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan has so far recorded 22 positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) across the country. However, the virus is rapidly spreading in some of the developing countries including Pakistan where the authorities have recorded 501 confirmed cases. (REUTERSA PRESS)

Doha Accord to Help Stabilise Afghanistan: Morrison

KABUL - Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has congratulated President Ashraf Ghani on winning a second term in office.

A statement from Ghani’s office on Friday said Morrison hoped the UN-Taliban peace agreement would lead to stability in the war-battered country.

In a felicitation message, the PM hailed Ghani’s victory and his commitment to exercising his democratic right to vote in the current circumstances.

Commenting on longstanding bilateral relations, Morrison recalled first Afghan camel drivers visited Australia in 1860.

He also mentioned Australia’s development assistance to Afghanistan and support Kabul for wiping off the throttle posed by the international terrorism. The premier lauded the Afghan government’s role in securing the release of Australian professor Timothy Weeks, 50, from Taliban custody.

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"No COVID-19 Case Reported in Afghanistan in Last 24 Hours": MoPH

KARL - The Ministry of Public Health on Saturday announced that “no positive case of the coronavirus was reported in the country in the last 24 hours,” but results from 12 cases are pending. A ministry spokesman, Wahidullah Mayar, said that, in total, 49 suspected cases have been tested from 26 provinces (including the 12 still pending). He said that 24 cases have tested positive, and 6 of those one has recovered.

He said that most suspected cases have been reported from Herat and Kabul. According to Mayar, at least 99 people have visited the Afghan-Japan hospital in Kabul to test for the coronavirus in the last two days. Six of them were suspected, he said.

In response to rumors about Afghans in Iran not being admitted to hospitals if they test positive or being otherwise mistreated or even deliberately... (More on P4)

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By: Moh. Reza Huwaida

W

thin the past years, the spring season has ushered in with concerns for Afghan people as the Taliban declared their spring offensive against the Afghan government, which took heavy toll on Afghan civilians. This year, Afghan officials held out hope that violence would be mitigated for a longer period of time or severity would be declared with the peace deal signed between the United States and the Taliban little before the spring. The public anticipated that the Afghan government and the Taliban would prepare for intra-Afghan dialogue so that they could sit at the negotiating table. However, their dreams did not come true. The preconditions set by the US-Taliban peace agreement appear to be too complicated and heavy for the Afghan government to accept easily. The "reduction in violence" idea was not mitigated to a satisfactory extent. The new solar year came with a deadly incident in Zabul province. Taliban members killed 24 Afghan soldiers in a surprise attack in Zabul on March 28. Afghanistan's health minister has attributed attacks on the Taliban's frontline and, therefore, adopted a change in their defensive approach, declared during the period of "reduc- tion in violence". If peace talks are not started between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the two sides are most likely to reinforce their attacks against each other so as to bring each other to their knees in the battlefields.

In addition, political feud between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah has also reached its peak and there seems no scope of any agreement. All strategies for resolving the political tension have reached deadlock. Neither side has signaled to change their political stance or seek to resolve their political chal- lenge in the near future. Both President Ghani and Abdullah have publicly rejected the peace deal. After the signing of peace deal, the US adopted a passive approach regarding the issue of peace. The US Special Representative for Afghanistan, peace process, known as Zalmay Khalilzad, has reiterated that the Taliban prisoners have to be released forthwith with the spread of the coronavirus disease. The Afghan government reluctantly accepted the release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners as stipulated in the US-Taliban agreement.

Meanwhile, the emergence of virus also posed threat to the Afghan government and people. The government, similar to many regions and states, has also centralised all its strategies on combating the COVID-19. Without being prepared, the Afghan government has been open to waves of Afghan refugees returning or being deported to the country from Iran. It comes as the Afghan government is not able to accept such a large number of refugees even at a normal situation let alone those people carry the disease with them. The preconditions set by the US-Taliban peace deal, has concentrated the bulk of their attention to combating the virus and closed their borders. As a result, many re-

ional and global meetings have been either conducted through virtual conferences or can-
celled. On March 19, Khalilzad pointed out that after consulting with the both sides, the US found out that the technical teams of the two sides are able to work in tandem, but since restrictions are set on traveling with the emergence of the coronavirus, real contacts will not be possible. The crisis emerged in the wake of coronavi-

The 2020 World Happiness Report released on Friday.

KABUL - Afghanistan is ranked the 153rd in the list. The 2020 World Happiness Report, conducted by the Sustainable… (More on P4)...

KABUL - Afghanistan is ranked the least happy country in the world, according to an annual survey released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The report showed that Afghanistan ranked fifth in the list of the least happy countries concerning GDP per capita, social support, life expectancy, freedom, freedom from corruption, and natural resources. For the first time, the WHO 2020 has also ranked cities around the world by their "subjective well-being", measuring how suitable the environment is for the people’s happiness. The capital city of Finland, Helsinki, ranked first, while, Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul, dropped to the bottom of the table.

The World Happiness Report became an independent platform for policymakers looking to better understand happiness. (More on P4/GI)

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KABUL - Regarded as a Taliban attack, President Ashraf Ghani has condemned the Taliban not only for the opportunity of peace at risk but also for spiking public confidence against the rebel group. On Friday, Taliban insurgents have killed 22 security personnel of women’s two security checkpoints in Qutai City of southern Zabul province. According to sources, the assailants were aided by eight police posts in Qalat City of southern Zabul province. The heinous act of the Taliban men with links to the insurgent movement. The provinces have killed 22 security personnel, Taliban has not been mitigated to a satisfactory extent. The Taliban resumed its attacks. According to Kha-

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The source quoted Ghani as saying: "For the first time, the WHO 2020 has also ranked cities around the world by their "subjective well-being", measuring how suitable the environment is for the people’s happiness. The capital city of Finland, Helsinki, ranked first, while, Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul, dropped to the bottom of the table. The World Happiness Report became an independent platform for policymakers looking to better understand happiness. (More on P4/GI)"

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A t the very end of words, we can break one’s heart, blacken one’s reputation and evince his/her love and emotions to somebody by words better all over the world. So, what is the need of playing with words men in our society. So, phonies mask their evil intentions in the are exploited to a large extent. For instance, many credulous or ingratiate him/herself by obsequious language. Under the Additionally, words cannot discover one’s true intentions and...

Xinjiang Uyghur Enjoy Good Medical and Health Conditions
By: Sheikh Hazza Bin Zayed

T he Qur’an is the only fundamental classic of Islam. It is a coll...
Germany’s Covid-19 Cases Jump by 2,705 In One Day as Death Toll Hits 47

BERLIN - The number of Covid-19 cases in Germany has climbed to 2,705 to Tuesday, with 16 fresh fatalities reported on Saturday.

The Robert Koch Institute announced the stark figure on Saturday morning and it is the highest daily increase in the country so far.

Furthermore, the epicenter, which is responsible for disease control and prevention in Germany, said a total of 47 people have died from the virus, marking an increase of 16 from Friday’s tally. Germany’s death toll of 47 is the highest in Europe.

In a news conference, authorities said the spread of the illness is alarming people and that it was up to the authorities to decide whether to impose a curfew to force them to stay at home.

“We recommend keeping maximal distance. It is up to the authorities to decide how to achieve that,” Lothar Wieler, president of the Robert Koch Institute, told reporters.

The virus that emerged last year has claimed more than 100,000 lives around the world. The epicenter of the global outbreak shifted to Europe recently as the virus continues to spread from place to place, due to cases of community transmission other than travel.

However, figures from China, where the pandemic began, show that the number of new local infections has been spotted in 72 hours, China said that it suffered 41 imported cases on Saturday – the highest one-day tally of infections from abroad. Seven new cases were reported from a cruise ship off the coast of the country, which represents a steep decline in fatalities. Around 3,255 people in mainland China have died from the virus so far and the worldwide death toll has breached two months ago.

China’s recoveries contrast sharply with Europe’s struggle to contain the virus. More than 4,000 deaths, has become the world’s hardest-hit nation. Countries across Europe have imposed stringent restrictions on travels and other restrictions in hopes of containing the spread of the virus. However, Germany has 5,000 people in China and 11,400 globally. (RT)

Businesses Reopening, People Allowed to Spend More Time Outside as Germany Reports Local Covid-19 Cases for Third Time

BEIJING - China has marked its third consecutive day of no new local cases of coronavirus, as officials pushed to speed up the process of reopening businesses and schools.

China’s National Health Commission said on Saturday that there were no new local Covid-19 cases reported in the country. The total number of confirmed cases in China is now 81,027.

The positive development has coincided with the government’s call to relax travel and entertainment policies put in place across the country. Even in Wuhan, the epicenter of the disease, officials said residents could travel with each other and businesses were also allowed to re-open in communities and neighborhoods where there were no existing cases of the illness.

The rate of infection has been brought to a near standstill and since its outbreak in December, only 23 people have died until now, China has been Qing in the virus. Although no new local infections have been spotted in 72 hours, China said that it suffered 41 imported cases on Saturday – the highest one-day tally of infections from abroad. Seven new cases were reported from a cruise ship off the coast of the country, which represents a steep decline in fatalities. Around 3,255 people in mainland China have died from the virus so far and the worldwide death toll has breached two months ago.

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Jeffrey Sachs, Editor of the World Happiness Report. "Time and again we see the reasons for wellbeing include good social support networks, trust, social responsibility, government action, and healthy lives."

(1) No COVID-19 pandemic—Sachs said it may be dangerous to spread rumors. Maulana Abdul Aziz Alizada, Afghan senior religious figures, have facilities for the treatment of suspected patients of the coronavirus disease and are under the control of the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health and primary healthcare centers.

In a news conference, authorities said that although the public health ministry has been tested for the coronavirus, the ministry has declared that it has no problem with the tests. The tests are being carried out to determine whether the public health ministry has been involved in any testing.

The statement added that the people’s health has been at stake since the early stages of the virus.

(2) Insults in Iran

"Don’t come out of open-air surgery and return to normal life to take a part in the elections and prejudice when seeking health services." (TOLNEWS)

(3) Afghan Airlines

A new destination for Afghanos, among many of them who travel there for medical care. India is a country that has been given a new destination to send their sick, said a government source.

A statement on March 19 revealed that all flights from Afghanistan to India will be allowed to land in India from March 22 for one week.

A one-way trip on social media showed an Afghan man stuck in the middle of an airport, who had to go back to India and then needed to return home. But on Friday the Afghan Charge d’affairs in New Delhi, Tahir Qadri told TOLNEWS that the restrictions by India are on all flights, including those of Afghans, who need to return home.

(4) Taliban Attacks

The Taliban on Friday launched attacks in three separate areas, including an area in the Panjshir Valley, in order to penetrate areas where security forces have been so far prevent attacks by the Taliban.

(5) Afghanistan

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(6) Pakistan

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Trump Orders Migrants Entering US Irregularly to Be Turned Back

WASHINGTON — United States President Donald J. Trump has said it will invoke a state of emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic to stop migrants from entering the United States either from the northern or southern border, saying the crossing “breathes fire.” Trump made the announcement at a news conference on Friday, in which he also announced that the United States would make travel across those borders “as safe as possible,” and would conduct “medical screenings” at those crossings to ensure that migrants are not infected with the virus.

The president also said that the United States would “start the process of” implementing a “public charge” rule, which would prevent certain immigrants from obtaining green cards or citizenship if they were determined to be likely to become a “public charge” on the United States. The rule would only apply to people who are seeking to extend their work permits or change their status from one type of visa to another.

Trump said that the United States would also work with other countries to ensure that they are not sending “sick” people to the United States. He said that the United States would not allow migrants to cross into the United States from Mexico, and that it would work with Mexico to ensure that migrants from other countries are not allowed into the United States.

“I want to do this in a way that’s as humane as possible, but it’s a safety issue,” Trump said. “We’re going to do it as quickly as possible, and we’re going to do it in a way that’s as safe as possible.”

North Korea Fires Two ‘Ballistic Missiles’ into Sea

PYONGYANG: North Korea on Friday what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the east coast of the country, in what appears to be the country’s first such test launch of the year. North Korea, which has been under international sanctions for years and faces international isolation, has said it would continue to develop its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and that it would also continue to test them. The United Nations Security Council has imposed several rounds of sanctions on North Korea in recent years in response to the country’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The South Korean government said that the missiles were fired off the country’s east coast, adding that it would report the situation to the United Nations Security Council. The United States, which has a large military presence in the region, said it was aware of the situation and had deployed ships and fighter jets to the area.

Threeinfeld, Houses Damaged After Quake Shakes Western Greece

ATHENS — A strong earthquake measured Richter level 5.2 on the Richter scale hit southern Greece on Tuesday, causing a number of buildings to collapse and damaging others. The earthquake, which was felt over a wide area of the country, was followed by several aftershocks.

According to the Greek Seismological and Volcanological Institute, the earthquake was centered in the area of Xanthi, in the northeastern part of the country. The institute said that the earthquake was the result of a fault that had been active in the area in the past.

The earthquake caused widespread damage in the area, with many buildings collapsing and others sustaining heavy damage. The Greek Red Cross said that it had received reports of people trapped under the debris of collapsed buildings.

China to Enhance Legal Service for Private Businesses Amid Epidemic

BEIJING — Chinese authorities have issued a guideline encouraging the development of more legal services for private companies in order to facilitate their production and the smooth operation of the economy. The guideline is aimed at helping private companies deal with the challenges posed by the novel coronavirus epidemic.

The guideline, which was issued by the Ministry of Justice, calls for the establishment of legal service centers at the provincial level to provide legal services to private companies. The centers will be responsible for providing legal advice, drafting contracts, and resolving disputes.

The guideline also calls for the establishment of legal service centers at the city level to provide legal services to private companies. The centers will be responsible for providing legal advice, drafting contracts, and resolving disputes.

The Chinese government has announced a series of measures to support private businesses, including tax breaks, financial aid, and reduced business registration fees. The government has also announced a series of measures to stimulate the economy, including a stimulus package worth 5 trillion yuan ($740 billion) to combat the coronavirus crisis.
KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai and former mujahed leader Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf have begun mediation efforts to solve the tensions between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, according to Sayyaf’s spokesman Masoom Tarishtwal.

Their efforts are focused on creating a broad-based and inclusive government, said Tarishtwal. “The agenda is focused on how to ensure the safety of Afghans and how to create an inclusive government, where all parties and all Afghan politicians can see themselves represented,” said Tarishtwal.

This comes after the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad also urged the Afghan political leaders to take bold steps towards settling the political crisis in the country and agree on the creation of an inclusive government. “The best gift Afghan leaders can give the country on this occasion is to reach an agreement on an inclusive government and end the political crisis,” Khalilzad added.

The agenda is focused on how to ensure the safety of Afghans and how to create an inclusive government, said Tarishtwal.

Meanwhile President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday evening, in a recorded video, wished the country a happy solar new year and called for unity among the people to achieve peace.

Ghani said the government dubs 1399 the “year of unity and reform.”

“Now that we are more than ever hopeful for peace, there is a need...” Khalilzad tweeted.

Karzai, Sayyaf Attempt Mediation of Political Stalemate

Ambassadors to Kabul Concerned Over Afghan Leaders’ Political Dilemmas

KABUL - The ambassadors of some foreign countries to Kabul, in their Nawroz welcoming notes, expressed their concerns regarding the ongoing tensions between the Afghan political leaders.

The new year inherits peace talks hurdles, political tensions, and more importantly, the fear of the coronavirus from the previous year. David Martinon, the French ambassador to Afghanistan, says that being united will make Afghanistan stronger, but now more than ever hope for peace.

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