Tadamichi Yamamoto Receives State Medal of ‘Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan’ From President Ghani

KABUL – President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met with the U.N. special envoy Tadamichi Yamamoto late yesterday, the Afghan Presidential Palace (ARG) said in a statement.

President Ghani awarded him the State Medal at a time that Mr. Yamamoto’s term was ended yesterday, March 21. It is worth noting that Tadamichi Yamamoto is a diplomat who has served as U.N. Secretary-General Tadaro Matsu’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for more than five years.

President Ghani lauded him for his contributions and expressed hope for the success of the new Afghan government. “May 2020 be the year that the process of peace is initiated,” he said in a statement.

Referring to the security situation, he said security situation in Kunar is improving and functioning. He said under the state authority.

As a result, he is now available in all districts.

Meanwhile, residents in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul have stressed the need for increased safety measures and hygiene as soon as possible to ensure the safety and security of the public. The Ministry of Interior should define a comprehensive and working strategy in consultation with the ACCI so as to ensure the safety and property in the business community. The ACCI has as an official at the Ministry of Health, at least 10,000 returnees have been quarantined. He urged the owners of restaurants, parks, swimming pools, public baths to stop operating. The health minister also called for urgent measures to control outbreak of the virus in the capital, Kabul. (SW)

Health Minister Urge People to Stay Home

KABUL – Ferozuddin Feroz, health minister, on Sunday reported 10 additional confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, including two in the capital Kabul for the first time, taking the total to 16.

Addressing a press conference, he said three cases have been confirmed in Herat, two in Kabul, two in Balkh, one in Baghlan, one in Chahar and one in Kandahar. With the registration of these new cases in Herat, the minister demanded the city should be closed down considering the outbreak.

The minister said two members of the parliament are also among the suspected cases with the novel virus. Herat has the highest number of cases in the west of the country due to its border with Iran and the return of hundreds of thousands of immigrants. According to the Ministry of Health, at least 32,000 returnees from Iran to Herat daily from Iran to move onwards to their native provinces. Minister Feroz said the number of people infected with the coronavirus would increase dramatically in the coming weeks if the situation persists. He stressed some cities need to be quarantined. He urged the authorities of restaurants, parks, swimming pools, public baths to stop operating.

The ministry also called for urgent measures to control outbreak of the virus in the capital, Kabul. (SW)

Accli Calls on Govt to Protect Business Community

KABUL - The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) in a statement on Saturday called on the Afghan government, particularly the Ministry of Interior, to take solid actions to ensure the safety and security of the business community in the country.

“Kidnapping – and attempted killing – of investors and businessmen has increased in the country. It is a matter of grave concern and the government needs to take action,” said the statement.

“The Ministry of Commerce and Industries and the Ministry of Interior should define a comprehensive and working strategy in consultation with the ACCI as soon as possible to ensure the safety and property in the business community,” the statement said. (TOLO NEWS)

Not Enough COVID-19 Testing Equipment at Borders: Experts

KABUL - A number of health experts have said that medical equipment to identify COVID-19 patients is lacking in border areas, and those travelers returning from abroad should take hygiene and safety measures seriously.

“We must start the screening process of all suspected people across the country; currently, this is not happening,” said Mohammad Nazir Haqiqi, a health expert in London.

Meanwhile, residents in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul have stressed the need for increased safety measures and hygiene to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

“The government should close the borders as soon as possible to ensure the safety and security of the public,” said Zabidullah, a resident in Kabul.

“‘It’s a very dangerous situation. If some one coughs, it can spread to other people,” he said. Hassan Khan, a resident in Kabul.

“If a person acts in accordance with the recommended health measures, he is serving the public good for all Afghani stan,” said Ali Sajjad Tahiri, a resident in Kabul.

Over the past few months, 100,000 Afghan refugees have returned from Iran, which is a hotspot for the COVID-19 virus. Most of those refugees then travel to remote areas. (More on P4/3)
Turkey's Role in Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan

Turkey has contributed much to Afghanistan's rehabilitation and emergency economic role with the country, which has been extended within the recent years.

In addition to having long-lasting cultural and historical contacts with Turkey, Afghans view Turkey with respect for several reasons:

1. According to Afghans, Turkey supported people during their jihad against the former Soviet Union.
2. During the Taliban regime, Turkey sided with and supported Afghan nation.
3. Turkey hosted Afghan migrants, who took refuge there during the war against the Soviet Union as well against the Taliban and there are still many Afghan refugees there.
4. Turks believe as an Islamic country, Turkey is a successful model around the globe since it could maintain the balance between political and economic power and it is free from religious issues.
5. The majority of Turkey only is an Islamic country being a member of NATO and having hundreds of soldiers serving in Afghanistan.
6. Turkey has operating its schools in Afghanistan for many years, Turkey has rendered cultural and educational services to all Afghans.

Turkey has friendly relations with Afghanistan, and the country is seen as a suitable place for resolving Afghanistan’s issues leading it to sustain peace. In addition to having long-lasting cultural and historical contacts with Turkey, Afghans view Turkey with respect for several reasons:

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NEHI - A number of drug-addicted women, who are living with addicted men in the central Daikundi province, say that the capital of the province, Sayad, is a drug and crime-ridden city where they find their treatment so they return to normal life.

According to statistics with the Public Health Department, 25,000 men and 10,000 women and children are addicted to different types of drugs in the province.

A Pajhwok reporter visited an under construction building in Sayad town where he saw drug addicts and women whose children are addicted to different types of drugs.

The addicts move everywhere in the city during day and mostly beg to earn money by drug deals. About 250 per day, they return to their places of gathering to spend their nights.

The reporter saw Sayad Civil, one of the addicts, in the building. (More on P4...(7)

Religious Scholar Shot Dead in Kabul

KARUL - Religious scholar Maulvi Nasir Pacha Hamdam was shot dead on Saturday in capital Kabul, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said.

Maulvi Pacha Hamdam was shot dead in the vicinity of 19th district of the city. (TOLO NEWS)

KUNAR - Taj Bibi, 25, an Afghan woman in the eastern Kunar province of Kunar. She tied the knot three times and lost all her husbands within six years because of the prevailing war in Afghanistan.

After losing her first husband to war, Taj Bibi married her brother-in-law, but lost him too. And later on she married her second brother-in-law, and lost him to a mine explosion.

All three men who married Taj Bibi were serving in the ranks of Afghan security forces. Taj Bibi, who lives in Faar village of Marwara district, has now married her fourth husband, and she hopes that this time war will not take him.

Marwara district is located only 4 kilometers away from Asadabad, the center of Kunar.

Taj Bibi’s family left their native area due to war and settled in a village near Asadabad.

“First I was married to the eldest son of the family, we had a good life, I was blessed with a son, but later on, I lost my husband, then I married for the second time, but my husband was martyred and then I was married to this boy and again I lost my husband,” said Taj Bibi.

Taj Bibi, who is now the mother of five children, says that her dream is to educate them.

“I want them to go to school, gain knowledge – I want my children to have a good future,” she said.

Taj Bibi was only eighteen years old when she married for the first time in 2011. Her first husband was serving in the Afghan police and was killed in Surkans district of Kunar in a mine explosion. Later on, she married her brother-in-law who was only 19 years old.

Her second husband was pursuing a military education in Kabul, but he was killed by the Taliban while he was on his way to his village.

Taj Bibi’s third husband was also serving in the Afghan army. But he was killed during a mission in Maidan Wardak province as a result of a mine explosion.

Taj Bibi’s fourth husband also serves in the army and this causes fear. (TOLO NEWS)

Daikundi Women Drug Addicts Want Treatment

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Over 40 ANDSF Killed in Past 2 Days: Local Officials

KARUL - Six soldiers, including five ANDSF, were killed and five others wounded as a result of recent attacks by the Taliban in Zabul, Kapisa and Baghlan provinces in the past two days, according to local officials.

According to police head quarters, four members of the local police and public uprising forces were killed in a Taliban attack in Zabul district on Friday morning.

But MPs from Kapisa have said that ten police personnel were killed in the attack.

Kapisa inhabitants said also that Bis, a former police commander, was killed in the attack in the Taliban in Nahar. But the government has rejected these figures. (TOLO NEWS)

Human Cost of Afghan War: Kunar Woman Lost 3 Husbands

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Taj Bibi’s fourth husband also serves in the army and this causes fear. (TOLO NEWS)

Explosions Wound 2 Civilians in Kabul City

KARUL - An explosion triggered by an improvised explosive device wounded two civilians in Kabul city early today, the security officials said.

Afghans further added that the explosion took place at 3.41 am local time in the vicinity of 19th district of the city.

Kabul Bomb Disposal Unit planted the improvised explosive device on a roadside close to Kabul Military Training Center at dawn, the officials said.

Kabul police said that no civilian injury or property damage was reported.

Four people were wounded in the blast. (KUSAAMA PRRS)

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News

Taliban Commander Among 24 Killed – Kunduz

KUNDUZ - At least 24 Taliban – including a commander – were killed in clashes with Afghan forces in northern Kunduz province, police said.

Haji Aklut, a spokesman for the provincial police told Aman News that the clashes broke out on Saturday night after a large number of militants attacked security forces in Imam Sahib, Khudabad and Dashe-Arch districts of the province.

Haji added that the Taliban’s attack faced heavy resistance by Afghan security forces, as a result, at least 24 insurgents were killed and 15 others wounded.

Meanwhile, two Afghan forces officers were killed in an explosion and two more were injured, Aklut further noted.

The Taliban militant group, however, claimed that 15 civilians, some officials and four journalists.

More on P4...(7)
Pakistan has been one of the main players in the Afghan con-
yict for more than a decade. It has been involved in the conflict of Afghanistan both at the national, regional and national lev-
els. For example, it played a central role in Geneva Afghan accord after the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan. In this accords as the US and Taliban agreement, Afghanistan govern-
ment in the midst of the process and Pakistan could include to terms in the accord as wished. Though in this year a decisive decade as to one-sidedness and opportunism, is the real work, destruction and disintegration due to foreign interference in Afghanistan. 

Pakistan's Plan for Post Agreement Afghanistan?

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Navy Sends Coronavirus Test Kits to Warships in The Pacific

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Navy said Saturday that it is sending coronavirus test kits to forward-deployed warships in the Western Pacific as the virus spreads worldwide. It is the first time the Navy has announced it has moved 19 COVID-19 test kits to at least six warships.

The Navy’s 7th Fleet said in a statement the kits were sent to the aircraft carrier Nimitz in the South China Sea, for testing on possible cases on any warships underway in the Pacific, the Navy said.

The 7th Fleet is the Navy’s largest, with between 50-70 ships and submarines and 140,000 personnel. Earlier this week, the head of American forces in Europe said 67 coronavirus cases worldwide are in his ranks and more than 2,600 service members and civilians under his command are quarantined.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said Saturday the coronavirus has now been confirmed in all five branches of the military. The total number of confirmed cases stood at 27 following reports of the first case in the coast guard.

The service已经有了 the kits to test crew members and some surrendered to the Taliban’s hands.

A ministry spokesman, Wahidullah Mayar, a senior administrative official, said the government has not provided the hospitals at this time with other equipment that the hospitals will need to quickly form a cabinet.

"We charge them (the hospitals) at a cost price. If the hospitals collapse or are exhausted, we will be similarly overwhelmed," he said.

"We are taking all the necessary steps to prevent any panic. We will try for the day when the relations between the two countries will be as good as the ones between the top two leaders, but it has to be left to time and be watched whether it can actually happen," the sister said.

"Let’s go to battle." (Aljazeera)

"We try to hope for the day when we can discard the cling film and gloves that dominate on the Afghan people and its people, first. It is a matter of life and death," said Ahmadullah, Sitara's sister.

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Stay Indoors & Healthy: India Holds Coronavirus ‘Self-Curfew’ Drill As Infections Reach 300,000 Globally

**NEW DELHI** - As part of a parallel preparation to combat Covid-19 pandemic surges and prepare for the world, India has launched a 14-hour ‘curfew’ in 21 districts in six states for an earthquake and social distancing.

Under the “Stay Indoors & Healthy” campaign, the local administration has imposed a total lockdown in six districts of the country, including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, where thousands of people have been infected with the virus.

Britain’s NHS Could Be Overwhelmed By Coronavirus Like Italy, PM Johnson Warns

**LONDON** - Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) could be “overwhelmed” by the coronavirus like Italy, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned.

In an interview with the BBC, Johnson said that the NHS was facing a “serious challenge” and that it was “very much at risk” of being overwhelmed.

He added that the British government was taking the situation “very seriously” and that it was working “around the clock” to ensure that the NHS was properly equipped to deal with the crisis.

Africa’s Mountain Gorillas Also at Risk from Coronavirus

**KAMPALA, Uganda** – As the coronavirus infects more people worldwide, conservationists are warning of the risk to another vulnerable species: Africa’s endangered mountain gorillas.

The World Health Organization has declared a pandemic, and the gorillas are at risk of being infected, and have been quarantined in a sanctuary in the Virunga National Park. The gorillas must be isolated for at least three months to avoid infection.

Italy Reports Nearly 800 Coronavirus Deaths in Largest Daily Rise

**ROME** - The death toll from an outbreak in Italy has risen to 789 as of April 2, the country’s Civil Protection Agency said.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Italy has risen to 3,573 from a previous record of 3,158 on March 19, with 155 people in intensive care.

The hard-hit northern regions of Lombardy remain in a critical situation, with 89 deaths and 253 cases so far.

The Mediterranean nation of 60 million has been under an effective lockdown since March 12, with public gatherings banned and non-essential businesses closed.

New South Wales Government Sworn in Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

**Bratslav** – A far-right government has taken office in Ukraine, with the coronavirus outbreak an immediate challenge.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that his administration would be focused on fighting the pandemic and reviving the economy.

Sewing Face Masks Goes Viral in Europe

**ROMA** – As the world battles the coronavirus pandemic, European countries are stepping up their efforts to make face masks.

In Italy, for example, a small company in Nanospace is producing face masks to help fight the virus. The company is producing 30,000 masks per day and has delivered them to medical centers and hospitals.

No Lockdown, Isolate Yourself, Inran Says

**SESHAMABAD** – Prime Minister Ahmed Khan has announced that Pakistan will not lock down the country.

In an address to the nation, Khan said that Pakistan’s situation was so bad that it would not be able to lock down the country. He added that Pakistan’s situation was so bad that it would need more hospital beds and medical supplies.

Coronavirus Cases Keep on Rising in Uzbekistan

**TASHKENT** – Four people in Uzbekistan have tested positive for COVID-19, with the number of infected people rising to 14.

The country has seen a sharp increase in the number of cases in recent days, with 13,000 people among 250,000 in a country that has been under lockdown for six weeks.

China Considers Proving Authority for Liyana as Coronavirus Balloons Around the World

**BEIJING** – The Chinese government has been working on a coronavirus vaccine that could be ready by next year.

According to a senior government official, the vaccine could be ready by 2021 and could be ready for mass production by 2022.

Neighborhood News

**Iranshoki** – Iran’s Khamenei Rejects U.S. Help Offer, Vows to Defeat Coronavirus

**TEHRAN** – The Islamic Republic of Iran said on Monday that it would not allow the United States to help it defeat the coronavirus.

In a televised press conference, Khamenei said that Iran would continue to battle the virus on its own and that it would not accept any help from the United States.

The United States has offered to help Iran in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, saying that it wanted to see the nation through the crisis.

Several countries have offered to help Iran, including Malaysia and Indonesia.

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Corona-Virus: Strategy Comes into Effect to Facilitate Government Employees

KABUL - The Independent Civil Services and Administrative Reforms Commission (ICASARC) strategy reduced working hours of government employees and increased precautionary measures for applicants in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. The number of coronavirus patients in Afghanistan surged to 34 after the ministry of health said on its website.

Mini Truck Packed with Explosives Goes Off Close to Bagram Airfield

BAGRAM - A Mini Truck packed explosives went off close to Bagram Airfield in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan late on Saturday night, the local officials said. Mohammad Mahfuz, the Police Chief of Parwan said the Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device went off at around 8 pm local time. He also added that the security forces opened fire on the vehicle after its driver ignored the call to stop in the check post. According to Mahfuz, the explosion did not inflict casualties on any one else.

The officials in the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the militants were looking to ram the explosives laden Dyna mini truck into Bagram Airfield. The anti-government armed militants including Taliban have not commented regarding the incident so far (KHALAFA PRESS)

KABUL - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) based Emirates Airlines on Saturday suspended its flights to several destinations including capital Kabul due to the spread of coronavirus. "In response to the latest development and precautionary measures taken around the world, Emirates is taking extra steps that go above and beyond industry and regulatory requirements to ensure our customers' health and comfort, and provide you with confidence when planning your travel," a line said on its website.

"Several countries have imposed travel and immigration restrictions due to COVID-19. All customers are requested to check relevant travel advisories from the countries to which they are travelling."

This is a dynamic situation and it is the responsibility of the customer to ensure there are no entry restrictions at their travel destinations. (More on P4-L) (K)

Emirates Suspend Flights to Kabul till June 30

KABUL - Religious scholars on Sunday urged the government and Taliban to create a joint commission on combating coronavirus and advised people to follow guidelines.

First reported in December in the city of Wuhan in central China’s Hubei province, experts attributed the outbreak to a novel coronavirus that has since spread across the globe. The confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported in 100 countries so far.

According to reports, around 300,000 people have been infected with the virus and nearly another 13,000 people died while a number of individuals have been discharged after their treatment.

Earlier today, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said 10 new positive cases of coronavirus have been registered in different provinces of the country, including capital Kabul, over the past 24 hours. Addressing a press conference here, Public Health Minister Fahimuddin Farzad said the number of positive cases (P4) has increased precautionary measures for applicants in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. The number of coronavirus patients in Afghanistan surged to 34 after the ministry of health said on its website.

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Mini Truck Packed with Explosives Goes Off Close to Bagram Airfield

BAGRAM - A Mini Truck packed explosives went off close to Bagram Airfield in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan late on Saturday night, the local officials said. Mohammad Mahfuz, the Police Chief of Parwan said the Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device went off at around 8 pm local time. He also added that the security forces opened fire on the vehicle after its driver ignored the call to stop in the check post. According to Mahfuz, the explosion did not inflict casualties on any one else.

The officials in the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the militants were looking to ram the explosives laden Dyna mini truck into Bagram Airfield. The anti-government armed militants including Taliban have not commented regarding the incident so far (KHALAFA PRESS)