

(1) China signals...

needed to pass because several council members were considering abstaining. Speaking in Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she "did not know where this news had come from".

The situation in Afghanistan was at a crucial stage and China supported UNAMA - the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan - to support reconstruction there, she said.

China hoped Security Council members would "jointly safeguard the important consensus reached in the past, respect each other's concerns, continue to carry out constructive cooperation on the Afghan issue, and safeguard the unity of the Security Council".

The U.N. mission, which was established in 2002, is helping Afghanistan prepare for a Sept. 28 presidential election and is pushing for peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

STANDOFF

Talks between the United States and Taliban militants on a U.S. troop withdrawal fell apart this month.

There are about 14,000 U.S. troops and thousands of other NATO troops in the country, 18 years after a U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban following the Sept. 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks on the United States.

The UNAMA mandate is renewed annually by the Security Council. The resolutions in 2016, 2017 and 2018 all included a reference welcoming and urging efforts, like China's Belt and Road initiative, to facilitate trade and transit.

But when it came time to extend the mandate again in March, the United States and other Western council members wanted the language removed, sparking a standoff with China.

The council ended up adopting a six-month technical rollover to allow the mission to keep operating.

At the time, acting U.S. Ambassador Jonathan Cohen denounced China for holding "the resolution hostage" by insisting "on making it about Chinese national political priorities rather than the people of Afghanistan".

He criticized Beijing's Belt and Road initiative - which aims to link China by sea and land through an infrastructure network with southeast and central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa - for "known problems with corruption, debt distress, environmental damage, and lack of transparency".

At a Security Council meeting on Afghanistan last week, Cohen referred to the impasse with China.

"We strongly believe this mandate is too important at this moment to have one Security Council member deny consensus for reasons having nothing to do with UNAMA," Cohen said.

Chinese U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun did not specifically mention the negotiations on the UNAMA resolution, but said China was working with Afghanistan to advance "the Belt and Road construction to actively support the Afghan rebuilding and its reintegration into the regional economic development". (Reuters)

(2) 25 Dead, 42 ...

Syed Baqir Kazimi, a spokesman for the State Maker electoral team, said 24 people had been killed and wounded in the blast near the campaign meeting.

He said, "The assailant wanted to enter the gathering, but fortunately, he could not reach his target."

Hamed Aziz, Ghani's campaign spokesman, said the president was unharmed. He added details of the attack were still being gathered.

Wahida Shahkar, spokeswoman for the governor, said the explosion happened at the entrance gate to the venue.

Haji Syed Habib, a resident of the area, said the blast occurred at a time when people were gathering in Jangalbagh area.

Also on Tuesday, an explosion happened near the Ministry of Defence in Kabul.

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned today's Taliban suicide bombing in Charikar and another in Kabul at the entrance to the Ministry of Defence.

A statement from the Presidential Palace media's office received by Pajhwok that President Ghani said the Taliban wanted to take revenge of their failed talks with the US from innocent people.

Ghani said the Taliban were only following the orders of their patrons to destroy Afghanistan and harm its people.

On the other hand, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the suicide attack and the group spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said 28 security forces had been killed and dozens more wounded in the attack.

He urged people not to take part in the ongoing election campaign gatherings as such gatherings were their target. (Pajhwok)

(3) Baghlan Governor ...

He said if Ahmad Farid Basim returned to the province as governor, the PC and people of Baghlan might not support him as governor anymore more.

Taliban militants carried out a coordinated attack on Pul-i-Khumri City, the provincial capital, about 10 days back and closed the Kabul-North highway for few days against traffic. (Pajhwok)

(4) Nearly nine ...

from 52% in 2016; the figure matches the lowest Gallup has ever recorded in any country.

In fact, 52% of Afghans said they experienced worry for much of the previous day, up from 42% in 2016. The proportion of Afghans who say they experienced enjoyment and who say they were treated with respect the previous day both fell below half (48%) for the first time in 2018.

Analysts of the survey conclude:

"Lacking safety and security, Afghans have had little opportunity to improve their economic status or rebuild critical infrastructure, such as roads, schools and healthcare facilities. Conflict in the countryside has led hundreds of thousands of Afghans to flee their homes, leading to an influx of displaced people in urban centers such as Kabul, where poverty and unemployment are rampant. These conditions are the context for Afghans' record-low levels of both wellbeing and hope for the future. It is difficult to foresee the implications that current events may have for the population's wellbeing over the long-term." (Tolo news)

(5) US Soldier ...

to the peace talks being called off, US President Donald Trump was mulling a potential reduction in US troop levels in Afghanistan down to 8,600.

Trump told reporters at the White House last week that the peace talks are "dead, as far as I'm concerned," and added that American troops have "hit the Taliban harder in the last four days than they've been hit in over 10 years." (Pajhwok)

(6) All-Women...

Abdul Baqi Bena, Kandahar's Chamber of Commerce and Industries deputy head, described the women market's inauguration a great facility for women in Kandahar.

He said now women would have a separate address to promote their handicrafts and other products.

Zahra, one of the skilled women, told Pajhwok Afghan News that in the past men were main beneficiaries of their products because women had no separate place where they could exhibit their products. (Pajhwok)

(7) Major Medicine...

But he expressed happiness over the new factory construction and said it would address their issues in future.

A number of other residents held similar views and hoped the factory would help address the shortage of medicines.

Kandahar Public Health Director Dr. Abdul Qaium Pukhla said such factories if established would prevent the import of low quality medicines to the country. (Pajhwok)

(8) Korea Atomic Energy...

research and development in a range of areas of nuclear science and technology."

KAERI, based in Daejeon, South Korea, offers a wide range of nuclear science facilities, including the 30 MW(t) High-Flux Advanced Neutron Application Reactor (HANARO) and the Irradiated Material Examination Facility (IMEF). HANARO is a highly versatile research reactor which can be used for applications ranging from neutron activation analysis to the testing of new nuclear fuel types. IMEF is used to perform hot cell examinations of materials irradiated in HANARO.

"We are committed to playing our role as an ICERR centre so as to contribute to advancing the development of research reactors and promoting the utilization of related facilities," said Dr. Won Seok Park, President of KAERI. "We look forward to providing a broad range of services in education, training

and collaborative research."

KAERI is now one of six IAEA-designated ICERRs, together with the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the Russian Research Institute of Atomic Reactors State Scientific Centre (RIAR), the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK•CEN), and both Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in the United States.

The ICERR programme was launched in 2014, to facilitate Member States, mainly without research reactors, access to research reactor infrastructure and options to carry out nuclear research and development as well as build capacity. Member States wishing to gain access to an ICERR have to become an Affiliate by signing a bilateral agreement with the centres designated as ICERR. The IAEA facilitates this process, including by sharing information on the capabilities offered by the ICERRs. (IAEA)

(9) OSCE-Supported...

migration for the development of the country," said Komil Rashidov, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, John MacGregor, said that migration is a significant engine of economic growth if managed and regulated properly. "To this end, it is important that legislation and reforms are based on evidence, aligned with international standards, including OSCE commitments, and meet migrants' needs."

Victoria Kasabyan, Head of the IOM Almaty Office, underlined the role of international organizations as catalysts of dialogue and co-operation between state authorities and research centres in order to shape common approaches to enhance the effectiveness of migration policies.

As part of the workshop, participants visited the Consultation Centre at the Agency on External Labour Migration recently established with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, as well as the vocational education and training centre "Ishga Markhamat" (Welcome to Employment).

The workshop was organized as part of the OSCE engagement to promote a multi-agency and multi-stakeholder dialogue to improve labour migration governance in Central Asia with the aim to support labour mobility and effective migration policies in the region. (OSCE)

(10) King Salman...

responsibility by condemning the perpetrators".

"The Kingdom is capable of defending itself against cowardly attacks and of responding to such acts, regardless of their origin," it said.

Also on Tuesday, Kuwait's foreign minister called on the country's armed forces to be on high alert and prepared to confront any incident following the Aramco attacks, its state news agency Kuna reported.

Following Iranian claims that Yemen's Houthis rebels had carried out the attack as an act of self defence, the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash said the "justification for the unprecedented terrorist attack on Aramco's facilities in view of the developments in the Yemen war is completely unacceptable".

The minister also urged the international community to stand behind the kingdom.

"The attack on Saudi Arabia is a dangerous escalation in itself, and the right position of every Arab country and every responsible state in the international community must be with Saudi Arabia and with the stability and security of the region," he wrote.

Dr Gargash's Twitter comments came hours after the Arab Coalition confirmed the weapons used to strike Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil-processing plant and the Khurais oilfield were Iranian-made.

Iran has denied its involvement, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi saying "such fruitless and blind accusations and remarks are incomprehensible and meaningless".

Martin Griffiths, the UN special envoy for Yemen, warned on Monday that attacks on Saudi Arabian oil plants at the weekend made a larger regional conflict more likely.

"At a minimum, this kind of action carries the risk of dragging Yemen into a regional conflagration," Mr Griffiths told the UN Security Council. "Of one thing we can be certain, that this very serious incident makes the

chances of a regional conflict that much higher, with Yemen in some way linked. None of that is good for Yemen."

A spokesperson for the Houthis rebels said after the attack that Saudi Arabia should expect more attacks.

An Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia backs the Yemeni government against the Houthis in a civil war that began in 2015. The rebels have been using drones in combat since the start of the war. (The National)

(11) China Denounces...

since the outbreak of demonstrations in June, and urged investigating the leaders of these riots.

China has continuously condemned and demanded that the US and European nations stop meddling in the internal affairs of the southern territory, misrepresenting the situation there and encouraging radical sectors to maintain their irrational behavior.

Protests have continued in Hong Kong and often end in clashes with the police and attacks on public infrastructure, despite the local government withdrawing the extradition bill that triggered the crisis.

As a result, the special administrative region has incurred economic losses as its image as one of the best commercial financial centers in the world is falling apart. Furthermore, unemployment and the fear of recession are increasing. (Prensa Latina)

(12) Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan...

up the coordination process between the parties to the Convention for the early start of the work of the Secretariat was emphasized.

At the meeting, an exchange of views took place on the implementation of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea signed by the heads of the Caspian littoral states, as well as on draft agreements on cooperation issues being negotiated between the Caspian littoral states.

The parties also discussed issues on the agenda of the next meeting of the High Level Working Group on the Caspian Sea, including the draft Agreement on the methodology for determining direct baselines in the Caspian Sea.

Furthermore, talks were held on the process of laying a fiber optic cable line along the seabed and other possible projects.

Other topics of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting. (Trend)

(13) Two-Thirds of...

deterrent effect on customers and new innovative projects.

German companies were facing problems running their websites and found that customers were annoyed by reading hints and info pages. According to Bitkom, some German companies were starting to doubt the utility of the new regulation.

As a consequence, Bitkom board member Dehmel is asking for further developed data protection rules so that "privacy protection can be reconciled with the development of innovative data-driven business models."

"Data protection should not be an annoying brake, but a guardrail with an orientation function for data-based services," Dehmel said.

On top of these existing obstacles, German companies fear all kinds of additional regulations concerning data transfer if Britain was to leave the European Union in a no-deal scenario.

"Without a Brexit deal, many affected companies will have to immediately adapt and reengineer their processes. This can have a direct impact on business success and can have a severe impact on the German economy as a whole," Dehmel warned. (Xinhua)

(14) Govt Committed...

and Lal Chand.

Abdul Shakoor of JUI (F) said Islam does not allow attacks or extremist acts against minorities. The chair said the entire parliament stands for the protection of rights of minorities.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Minister for Communication Murad Saeed regretted the recent statements made by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

He said the politics of those who plundered the national exchequer will come to an end, but the federation of Pakistan will stay intact at all costs.

The minister said that all political parties collectively raised voice for the plight of oppressed Kashmiri people and exposed the evil face of the Modi government. He, however, said that

the statements of Bilawal Bhutto and the Sindh Chief Minister have hurt the sentiments of the nation.

Several bills were also laid before the House. These include, The Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Islamabad Club (Administration (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Transfer of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Islamabad Transfusion of Safe Blood (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Chemical Fertilizers (Development Surcharge) (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Controller General of Accounts (Appointment, Functions and Powers) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and The Pakistan Academy of Letters (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Amjad Ali Khan laid before the House the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2019. He said the bill is aimed at given powers to the relevant ministry to frame rules concerning its departments. The House will now meet on Thursday at 11 a.m. (Agencies)

(15) Ayatollah Khamenei...

accord, Washington had lifted its anti-Iran economic sanctions.

"If the US retracts its words, repents and returns to the nuclear accord that it has violated, it can then take part in sessions of other signatories to the deal and hold talks with Iran... Otherwise, no talks at any level will be held between Iranian and American authorities, neither in New York nor elsewhere."

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to America's repeated offers of talk and the contradictory comments by its officials on whether any such negotiations should be held with preconditions.

"Sometimes, they speak of negotiations without preconditions. At other times, they set 12 conditions for the talks. Statements as such are either an outcome of their chaotic policy or a ploy aimed at confusing the opposite side," the Leader said.

"The Islamic Republic will, of course, not be confused as our path is clear and we know what we are doing," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader said, "I had already said that America's objective of [pursuing] talks is to impose [its demands], but they have become so insolent that they even speak about this openly."

"The US regime is after making its domestic rivals and the Europeans accept this as a definitive policy that maximum pressure is the only way to confront Iran," added Ayatollah Khamenei. "Their objective in [offering to hold] talks is to prove to everyone that the policy of maximum pressure has yielded results, and that Iranian authorities were forced to come to the negotiating table despite what they said."

The Leader also noted that the US maximum pressure strategy consists of "a range of sanctions, threats and rants," which are meant to bring Iran to the negotiating table.

The strategy has, however, failed to bring Iran to its knees, said Ayatollah Khamenei.

"In return, we need to prove that the policy is not worth a penny for the Iranian nation." (Press TV)

(16) UN Proposes...

has been widening.

"The lack of integration at the political and institutional levels is the main cause of inefficiency, which determines the impossibility of providing effective social protection to any vulnerable group. In practice, people in need cannot receive the services or support to which they are entitled, and do not even know where to seek help,"

Head of the UNICEF Office in Uzbekistan Sascha Graumann said.

"The creation of a single body would allow using an integrated approach in providing social protection to vulnerable people, children and families," he added.

In partnership with the Government, the UN office in Uzbekistan has developed a joint program to improve the social protection system in the country. The main components of the program are institutional reform and pilot programs for people with disabilities. It implies that by 2022, a single department or coordination mechanism of social protection will be created in the country with an appropriate administrative system and sufficient resources to provide effective social protection to the population. (Trend)