

Subcontinent

**Taleban to visit Moscow:** A Taleban delegation led by the movement's chief negotiator will visit Moscow this week to attend a ceremony expected to be followed by informal talks with senior Afghan politicians on the peace process, officials said on Monday.

The potential meeting comes during increased diplomatic efforts to revive stalled talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, following the failure of a planned get-together in the Qatari capital Doha last month.

Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the 14-strong delegation, led by Mullah Baradar Akhund, will attend a ceremony on Tuesday marking the establishment of diplomatic relations



Afghan National Army march during their graduation ceremony from a 3-month training program at the Afghan Military Academy in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 27. (AP)

between Russia and Afghanistan.

The delegation would also meet Afghan politicians and elders on the following day to discuss the future of the country, he said, without giving details. (RTRS)

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**IS responsible for blast:** A global monitoring group said the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for an explosion targeting a police van in Bangladesh's capital, but police said Monday they were not sure who was behind it.

Police said Sunday night's explosion in Dhaka's Malibagh area left three people injured, including a police officer. After the explosion, the van caught fire. US-based SITE Intelligence said in a Twitter post that IS was behind the explosion.

Dhaka Police Commissioner Asaduzzman Mia said Monday that the bomb had been planted in the van. He said it was more powerful than an explosion in April in Dhaka that was also claimed by IS. (RTRS)

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**Militants kill soldier in Pak:** The Pakistani military said Monday militants attacked an army post in a troubled region bordering Afghanistan where ethnic tensions have recently flared up with minority Pashtuns, triggering a shootout that killed a soldier. It remained unclear who was behind

the attack late Sunday on the Makki Garh security post in North Waziristan. Five soldiers were also wounded in the clashes.

Just hours earlier, authorities said a minority Pashtun group led by two lawmakers attacked another army post in the same region, the Khar Kamar post, setting off a shootout that killed three activists. According to the army, lawmakers Ali Wazir and Mohsin Darwar were seeking to pressure authorities to release terror suspects arrested recently in North Waziristan. (KUNA)

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**Nepal on high alert:** Security forces in Nepal were on high alert Monday amid a general strike called by an outlawed communist group suspected in a series of explosions that killed four people and wounded seven more in the capital.

Schools and main markets remained closed on Monday in Kathmandu while traffic was thin during rush hour.

The group had called for a nationwide general strike to pressure the government in releasing their detained members. (AP)

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**Pak, China sign several MoUs:** Pakistan and China on Sunday signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in different sectors during visit of Vice-President of China, Wang Qishan to Islamabad, official media reported.

The signing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan and Wang. These MoUs include cooperation in economic and technical affairs, Disaster Management and assistance in agriculture sector of Lasbella University. (AP)

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