

(1) Transport ...

of Afghans," ADB Country Director for Afghanistan Thomas Panela said.

At the session, the minister of public works signed a contract for the Mehterlam ring road with a private company.

"With the establishment of the road, the problems of Laghman residents will come to an end," said Laghman governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi. (Tolonews)

(2) Afghanistan...

The use by the Assad regime of chemical weapons, and we addressed that militarily. But the rest of the campaign stays on track, exactly as it was before Assad's violation." (Pajhwok)

(3) Military ...

security situation in the province. They said that security forces have launched their military operation, code named Khalid, in the west zone of the country.

Security officials said the operation will be expanded to other regions of the country in the coming days.

Habibi added that this year security forces and the Afghan air force have been equipped with the latest weapons and equipment and that they will use everything at their disposal to destroy the insurgents. "Preparations are complete, we are completely prepared to launch Khalid operation, all of our soldiers are prepared for the defense of their country, I assure all citizens of the country that the national army is fully alert to suppress the terrorists and to defeat those who seek to destabilize Afghanistan," said Habibi.

Habibi also reiterated his commitment to bringing about reforms in the security institutions and to combating corruption in the army. "We are committed to fighting corruption and those who commit corruption in the security institutions, we will seriously combat them, we will identify them and arrest them and will give them to the legal and judicial institutions," added Habibi.

Meanwhile, general Amanullah Mubin, the commander of 207 Zafar Army Corps, said that the security forces are currently undertaking their counter-terror drive in at least four provinces in the western parts of the country.

He said at the moment some of the forces are engaging in tough confrontations with the militants in Badghis province.

"In coordination with the officials of the western provinces, the army launched more than 100 operations last year to eliminate the terrorists," said Mubin. (Tolonews)

(4) Pakistan and ...

relations was deep rooted in stronger people-to-people contact, cultural affinities and shared interests. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq remarked that Pakistan is the largest stakeholder in a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan and further added that the future of both countries is linked together.

He underlined the need for co-operation like brothers to resolve immediate problems and help future generations in building trust networks for mutual gain. He highlighted the need for stronger Pak-Afghan inter-parliamentary engagements cemented by frequent exchange of delegations. The Afghan Ambassador Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal endorsed Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for fruitful and consistent inter-parliamentary relations to bridge the recent trust deficit.

He reiterated that Pakistan and Afghanistan are inseparable in terms of joint challenges and both countries are determined to open a new chapter of cordial bilateral relations.

He said that relations with Pakistan were of paramount importance in Afghan foreign policy and expressed his hope that people on both sides of Pak-Afghan border share their future in a peaceful and prosperous region. (APP)

(5) Kabul will ...

between Pakistan and Afghanistan to sort out the long-running border spat. "To eradicate terrorism, there is a need to change policies instead of erecting walls and fences."

Last month, Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa had said the border in Bajaur and Mohmand agencies being high-threat zones was being fenced to stop militant attacks.

Kabul did not support increasing distance between the Pakhtuns living on both sides of the frontier,

the diplomat said, acknowledging tensions between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

(6) Russia ...

of recognizing the Afghan constitution, disarmament and reaching full national accord in defending Moscow's engagement with "any forces in Afghanistan," including the Taliban movement (banned in Russia).

"We proceed from the fact that by helping the legitimate government of Afghanistan together with other participants of this settlement process, we will ultimately achieve reconciliation and lead Afghanistan toward a path of peaceful solution to all internal issues," Putin said.

Afghanistan is in a state of political and social turmoil, with government forces fighting the continuing Taliban insurgency. The instability has persisted in the country since the 2001 US-led invasion to defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

The lack of control and instability turned the country into home to the largest opium poppy production and distribution network in the world. (Sputnik)

(7) Afghanistan ...

of providing support to the Afghan Air Force.

Gen. Khudaidad as the head audit of the armed forces head command, Gen. Wilayat Shah Bahrami as deputy head of the audit of the armed forces command, and Mohammad Saleh as deputy chief for strategic planning of the armed forces command. (KP)

(8) CEO's Office ...

"The election budget is dependent on the outcome of work on the assessment of an e-voting system, but a lot of effort has been done in this respect," added Badghisi.

It is believed that the date for parliamentary and district council elections hinges on the decision regarding an e-voting system. Two weeks ago a delegation started work on assessing whether an e-voting system could work in Afghanistan.

The delegation is expected to release the results of this assessment within a few days. (Tolonews)

(9) Strongmen...

district's administrative chief, confirmed the usurpation of the teachers' township land by powerful gunmen. He said discussions on resolving the problems were ongoing.

Javed, a schoolteacher based in the district, said they were very happy over the land allotment, but the issue could not be addressed in the last 10 years. (Pajhwok)

(10) 'Pakistan ...

fight between the Afghan and Pakistani forces," Qudratullah said.

He said efforts were underway to prevent the Pakistani forces from constructing the installation in Angoor Ada, a village and a border crossing straddling the South Waziristan Agency of Pakistan and Afghanistan's Paktika province.

A security official in Paktika, who wished to go unnamed, also said the Pakistani forces were trying to establish facilities in the area. "We are here in our bunkers, we are not ordered what to do," he said.

Other Paktika officials refused to comment on the issue.

The Pakistani forces on Tuesday also tried to establish a post in Angoor Ada, but Afghan forces said they prevented the move.

About a year back, Pakistani forces built a gate and some other facilities in Angoor Ada area and handed over the purpose-built facilities to Afghan forces later on. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban ...

local security personnel for leveling such allegation due to personal differences.

Provincial Council (PC) member Sebghatullah Selab, meanwhile, said the Taliban had captured Aq-balaq and other important areas of the district. The militants could seize more areas such as Darz Aab, parts of Dasht-i-Laili and Pashtunkot if the government did not take immediate action, he added.

Abdul Sattar Darz Aabi, a lawmaker from Jawzjan province, expressed concern over the law and order situation in the three provinces in the northern region. He warned the situation could deteriorate in the summer if the government did not take strong action against the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(12) US Troops...

only to draw a salary that can be embezzled by officials.

The hope that this will be resolved by 2020 seems highly aspirational, given the ongoing Afghan government problems with corruption. Indeed, the Trump Administration is looking to add US troops to the country to try to stem the losses the Afghan military is suffering. (FNA)

(13) Afghanistan...

would increase the chance of Afghanistan getting full membership status in the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"We will have meetings with the ICC officials where they will make a number of decisions which will be important for Afghanistan," he said.

The cricket chief said their three-year strategy and annual plans have been approved which will help them to take Afghanistan's cricket forward and help overcome challenges faced by the cricket board.

Asked about alleged corruption involving the cricket board, Mashal said: "We have started a five-year review plan and a company is already working on it but I am not naming it because I don't want them to be put under pressure by any side. They have already started an audit into Afghanistan Cricket Board's activities over the past three years."

"We have found many gaps but it is too early to talk about it. We are waiting for the last report and we cannot rely on an uncompleted report. The report will be complete in the next 25 days ... We have given them (the investigation team) full access to all documents," he stated.

"As I am watching raw materials of the inspection, there are [corruption] cases from the former administration [of the cricket board] but it is too early to make any decision in this respect," he said.

Mashal said they have hired the best coaches for young players and for replacements in the national team.

"We have appointed special coaches for them and our stadium in India is at their service. We will also benefit from Sharjah field ...

In the future, we will not wait to select players for world cup tournaments; we will select the team according to the time [which will be given to us] and we will have a strong team," he said.

"Today our team is ready to face any strong team in the world," he added.

He mentioned that the national cricket team would play three T20s and ODIs against West Indies in June.

"We signed an agreement with the West Indies a few days ago. We have also requested all our friends and administration to live stream all matches because our people are highly interested to watch the matches. The team will also play against MCC in London," he said.

Meanwhile, he praised Rashid Khan Arman and Mohammad Nabi's participation in the IPL, particularly Rashid's efforts in Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

Afghanistan has come a long way since making their World T20 debut in 2010, having qualified for the last 50-over World Cup in Australia and recently beating Ireland across the three formats ODIs, T20 Internationals, and First-Class in a series played at their adopted home ground in Greater Noida in India.

Rashid and Nabi are the first Afghans to play in this year's IPL. In his debut for SRH last week, Rashid stood out, taking two wickets in his debut match for his IPL team. In his second match Rashid scooped man of the match after he got three wickets against Gujarat Lions. (Tolonews)

(14) NDS Arrest ...

bases, security check posts, and logistics convoys.

The militants were also involved in the assassination of the government employees, tribal elders and other influential figures in Kandahar.

According to Kandahar NDS, the militants were kidnapping the officials and elders as well as planting roadside bombs on main roads and highways.

The identities of the detained militants have not been disclosed with NDS saying the militants have confessed to their crimes and their identities will be disclosed by the judiciary institutions once their cases are opened for trial.

Kandahar is among the relatively calm provinces where the security situation had improved during the

recent years but the anti-government armed militant groups have increased their insurgency activities in some of its districts during the recent months. (FNA)

(15) At Least...

victims' families.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah also condemned the incident and said: "I condemn the terrorist attack martyring innocent civilians in Kabul. Work for peace is important but saving lives is a top priority." (Tolonews)

(16) No Evidence ...

" said Sangari.

Rumors over the engagement of Taliban and Russian officials have been ongoing for the past few months, and there has been much speculation about alleged contact between the Russians and the Taliban.

Russian officials have on various occasions confirmed contact with the resurgent group which has been fighting the government in Kabul for the past fifteen years.

"Our military operations continue across Afghanistan. But so far we have no evidence to show that Russia provided ammunition to the Taliban," said Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman to MoD.

"Just a day before I met the minister of interior, hundreds of BM40 missiles entered the country through Nimroz border and the missiles have been delivered to the Taliban in Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan and some western provinces. It is believed that these weapons have been provided by the Russians through Iran," said MP Khalid Pashton.

"It's natural, the majority of weapons in Iran are made in Russia; they have signed contracts with the Russians in this respect; the Iranians have a lot of Russian made weapons; if sometimes these weapons are delivered to the Taliban, then we can confirm that these weapons are provided to the Taliban by the Russians," said MP Abdul Jabbar Qahraman.

Afghan officials have continuously asked neighboring countries to avoid meddling in Afghanistan's affairs.

This comes just days ahead of the Moscow summit on Afghanistan which is expected to be held on Friday.

The conference will be attended by representatives from eleven countries including China, Pakistan, Iran, India, five central Asian countries and Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said Kabul is committed to sending a 'clear message' to the Taliban during the upcoming conference in Moscow.

The Taliban must realize that they cannot reach their objectives by waging war and violence, MoFA spokesman Ahmad Shekib Mustaghni said.

"Our message to the Taliban in this meeting is that they cannot achieve their goals through war and it has been proven. Another message is that terrorists should not be differentiated between," Mustaghni stated.

Bilateral relations between Afghanistan and the Russian Federation recently soured following the confirmation by Russian officials that Moscow had been in talks with the Afghan Taliban. (Tolonews)

(17) 'Russians ...

arms and assistance to the rebels. The Taliban rejected the claim as a false rumor, with their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid saying the rumor was an intelligence propaganda aimed at creating fear. (Pajhwok)

(18) Scaring Causes...

She said now she was well grown but still she was not a courageous person and did not feel good among crowds and new people.

Marwa, a 13 years old girl, remembered: "Once I frightened my cousin who was then two and a half years old.

"My cousin's hands, feet and lips crooked, her eyes were open, she could not talk, she was immobile for several minutes. We scrubbed her feet and chest and sprayed water on her face and finally she came into senses."

Alia, a mother of five children, said she also scared her son, her first born, when he was a baby. Now her son had grown up but he still afraid of dogs and felt uncomfortable among people, she said.

In some cases, a baby may lose life when scared

about one of her bitter memories, "Twenty years ago, I attended a wedding, my baby was crying too much, I tried a lot to calm him, but he was still crying, then I angrily shouted at him loudly and slapped him in the twice, he was shaking after I beat him and died in few minutes."

While shedding tears, she said: "I never tried to scare my children after that incident, I will never forget my son's pain, I killed my baby with my own hand."

Family teaches children basics of social understanding

Anjila Babakrkhel, a schoolteacher and mother of five children, said: "I have always tried not to place fear in my children's minds, whatever they do, I do not make them scared. I softly tell them do not do this, if something is fearful for children, I explain it how simple is it." Mohammad Ehsan, father of three children and a resident of Kabul, said: "I had never scared my children and also do not let my wife scare them. Fear makes children coward, I have seen people who were frightened in childhood lack no social courage."

Frightening children results into unwanted consequences

Psychologists warn that besides other dangerous consequences, scaring children sometimes cause babies' hearts to stop beating and lose lives.

Mohammad Naser Habibi, a psychologist in Kabul University, said families frightened children to prevent them from playing and make them quiet or stop demanding something.

He said scaring children caused mental problems, lack of courage, fear and weakness among them. "A baby's heart may stop beating and even die if severely frightened," he said.

Habibi asked families, particularly parents, to avoid making their children afraid and denying their rights.

Rohullah Rezvani, who teaches psychology in a university, said whatever children heard from their parents and elders, they believed it the rule of life. Frightening impacted children's habits of sleep, eating, relations and others and isolated them from others, he said.

Scaring children may also cause enuresis, emotions, heart pain, problems in breathing and other problems, he said, adding parents should learn positive methods of treating and training their children.

He asked the media, scholars, the Ministry of Education and teachers to create awareness among parents about right training of their children.

Islamic scholars

Islamic scholars say scaring children means not compassionate towards the kids and to keep them oppressed.

Shams Rahman Frotan, an Islamic scholar, said: "Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said: "Those who do not show compassion to children and those who do not respect elders are not from among us."

(19) 4 Large ...

"In Islam, if someone scares children with words such as monsters or ghosts, he or she tells lie because monsters and ghosts do not exist there," he said. (Pajhwok)

Shams Rahman Frotan, an Islamic scholar, said: "Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said: "Those who do not show compassion to children and those who do not respect elders are not from among us."

"In Islam, if someone scares children with words such as monsters or ghosts, he or she tells lie because monsters and ghosts do not exist there," he said. (Pajhwok)

Shams Rahman Frotan, an Islamic scholar, said: "Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said: "Those who do not show compassion to children and those who do not respect elders are not from among us."

"In Islam, if someone scares children with words such as monsters or ghosts, he or she tells lie because monsters and ghosts do not exist there," he said. (Pajhwok)

Shams Rahman Frotan, an Islamic scholar, said: "Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said: "Those who do not show compassion to children and those who do not respect elders are not from among us."

"In Islam, if someone scares children with words such as monsters or ghosts, he or she tells lie because monsters and ghosts do not exist there," he said. (Pajhwok)

Shams Rahman Frotan, an Islamic scholar, said: "Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said: "Those who do not show compassion to children and those who do not respect elders are not from among us."

event that the road is a sign of friendship between Afghanistan and Germany.

"Let me say this very clearly, the Kunduz-Khulm highway is an essential part of Afghanistan's infrastructure and a key element for the traffic system in the north. It is an overdue alternative for travel between northern provinces and the neighboring states and part of a whole string of road projects implemented with Germany cooperation," the German official said.

According to the public works minister, the construction of the third phase of the road which encompasses 23 kilometers and the fourth phase which is 17 kilometers will cost 50 million euros. (Tolonews)

(21) Daesh Commander ...

Rahmutullah Hashar said fresh troops and equipment reached to the district and the forces were able to take the control of some villages which were under control of Daesh. IS insurgents had been pushed back from the Sardarreh and Bibi Maryam villages, he claimed. Hashar said that Qari Mohibullah was the deputy of Qari Hekmat who was the head of IS in Darzab and Qhosh Tapa districts. Local police commanders and security personnel were killed in their attack recently.

IS have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(22) Xi and Trump...

global and regional issues, through the newly established four-pronged dialogue mechanism.

He expressed the hope that the dialogue mechanism will yield as many early-stage results as possible so as to inject impetus to bilateral relations.

Trump, in an early morning note on Twitter, said the call with Xi, just days after they met in the United States, was a "very good" discussion of the "menace of North Korea". The call came as an influential state-run Chinese newspaper warned that the Korean peninsula was the closest it has been to a "military clash" since North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006.

The communication between the leaders underscored the sense of urgency as tension escalates amid concern that reclusive North Korea could soon conduct a sixth nuclear test, or more missile launches, and Trump's threat of unilateral action to solve the problem.

Trump ordered the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group to head to the Korean peninsula in an attempt to deter North Korea's nuclear and long-range missile ambitions, which it is developing in defiance of U.N. resolutions and sanctions. (Xinhua/Reuters)

Trump ordered the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group to head to the Korean peninsula in an attempt to deter North Korea's nuclear and long-range missile ambitions, which it is developing in defiance of U.N. resolutions and sanctions. (Xinhua/Reuters)

(23) Brexit Referendum ...

million U.S. dollars) on sending a leaflet, advocating a Remain vote, to every home in Britain, were inappropriate and counterproductive for the government. The committee has recommended that in the event of future referendums, civil servants should be tasked with preparing for both possible outcomes. (Xinhua)

(24) Global Trade...

elections, and the level of appetite for more protectionist or anti-globalization policies. WTO's expected range for trade growth next year 2018 runs from 2.1 percent to 4 percent. Azevedo said the WTO was hoping for greater stability in the world economy, and alluded to lingering uncertainty about trade policy in the United States, the world's largest economy, under the administration of President Donald Trump. (AP)

(25) OPEC Forecasts ...

2016, OPEC decided to cut its oil production by 1.2 million bpd to re-balance the oil market, however, in the meantime, the United States, another big oil producer, is pumping more oil. "It can be expected that any move towards higher prices will likely lead to resurgence in U.S. tight oil production from the major shale regions," the report said. (Xinhua)

(26) US Senator...

of NATO expansion in Europe, said in Montenegro. The Senate backed Montenegro's accession to NATO last month, a message that the U.S. will push back against Russian efforts to increase its influence in Europe. President Donald Trump signed the ratification on Tuesday. NATO invited tiny Montenegro — a traditional Russian ally — to join the military alliance as its 29th member in December 2015. (AP)