

(1) McCain, Warren...

Tuesday, "Wonderful seeing so many outstanding American service members serving in Afghanistan - we can't thank them enough for their sacrifice." CNN reached out to the senators' offices but additional details on the trip were not immediately available. (CNN)

(2) Afghanistan ...

to Afghanistan - stopping the flow of water to Afghanistan.

Iran, the ministry said, has used unprecedented volume of waters from Afghanistan's Helmand and Harirod Water Zones, in the bordering areas with Iran, over the years.

"With the establishment of dams in the country, we can ensure the management of water resources in Afghanistan," said deputy minister of water and energy Basir Azimi.

Based on Article 5 of the Helmand River Treaty signed between Afghanistan and Iran in 1973, Iran shall make no claim to the water of the Helmand River in excess of the amounts specified in this Treaty, even if additional amounts of water may be available in the Helmand Lower Delta and may be put to a beneficial use by Iran.

This comes after the Iranian president criticized Afghanistan's dam project at a conference on sandstorms in Tehran on Monday

Rouhani said: "We cannot remain silent about the thing which is apparently damaging our environment. Establishment of several dams in Afghanistan such as Kajaki, Kamal Khan and Salma in the north and south of Afghanistan," said Rouhani.

He said the dam projects in Afghanistan 'threatens a number of bordering provinces in Iran'.

Afghan experts said they believe that Iran should thank Afghanistan for benefiting from its waters in the course of history.

The analysts said Afghanistan would face in a crisis with its neighbors over water if it remains 'reluctant' to manage its water resources.

"According to the international conventions, we maintain the right to establish dams. It is our responsibility to take steps in this respect according to our national interests," said Sayed Massoud, an economy expert and Kabul University lecturer.

"The Afghan government must take action in line with international conventions and ask Iran to pay Afghanistan for the waters it has received over the years," said Ramazan Jumazada, head of Afghan parliament's natural resources commission.

On average basis, the scale of water resources in Afghanistan is estimated up to 70 billion cubic meters annually. But 80 percent of these waters are flowing to Iran, Pakistan and other neighboring nations in the Central Asian countries.

Iran is one of the neighbors which receive much water from Afghanistan's two water zones - Helmand and Harirod zones. (Tolonews)

(3) Barred from...

but we have been barred from assaulting them."

Akhar Shah, another ANA soldier, asked top commanders to let them launch crack down on the Taliban who bothered passengers.

This Pajhwok reporter also witnessed the Taliban checkpoint on the highway, where the group checked all vehicles.

Brig. Gen. Syed Qurban Musavi, chief of staff at the 20th Pamir Unit, said a plan was being chalked out to launch offensive, but the militants hiding in civilian homes created problems.

He added the vital northern highway remained open for traffic and there was no security on the busy road. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghan-India...

facilities required for the export of fruits via the airport and their staff offered 24 hours services in this regard. Governor Zalmi Wesa believed quality packaging of fruits was vital to exploring more markets for the Afghan products. He said Kandahar fruits were the best in terms of taste and quality, but more attention should be paid to standard packaging.

He acknowledged issues in standard packaging, transportation and security but said these problems should be mutually resolved by the government and traders.

The governor praised the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) for striving to strengthen the country's economy.

Haji Mohammad Younis Momand, ACCI deputy head, said the launch of the Afghanistan-India Air Corridor was a great opportunity for expansion of Afghanistan exports.

He said an increased amount of fruits would be exported this air thanks to

the air corridor which he said would also help explore more markets for Afghan fruits.

Saaduddin Saeed, in charge of packaging and processing sector, said last year they exported 200 tonnes of grapes to India and the UAE, where the grapes were sold in foreign markets at doubled price.

He said trade via the land route was never economical and effective because trucks transferring fruits were had no freezers.

These trucks went through hot areas, affecting the quality of fruits, he said, adding the trucks were stopped at every checking point and the journey was time consuming.

Jalal Rahman, another fruit businessman, hailed the launch of the Afghanistan-India air corridor and termed it a huge success for Afghanistan exports. He, however, said the export of fruits and other items from Kandahar was carried out in traditional manner and hoped modern system of packaging would be introduced after the launch of the air-corridor.

He said 20 cents were a reasonable price by which Afghan fruits and herbs could be exported to India through the air corridor.

He said export of fruits by land route took six days and one kilogram of fruits was accounted for 60 cents, but through the air corridor it took a few hours to reach India against 20 cents.

He said when the packaging of fruits was of substandard, it checking took much time. He said it was unfortunate that many traders had put the fruits in bags and had packaged them in a substandard way on the first cargo plane to India.

To a question about the export of grapes this season, he said they had cold storages at the airport with the capacity of storing 1244 tonnes of fruits. (Pajhwok)

(5) Houses Built ...

"Thirty houses have been destroyed so far in the first and Kohistan districts," he added, accusing certain elements of building homes at historical site. Police and the Ministry of Information and Culture would take steps to ensure the protection of such places.

No arrests have been made and no individual referred to the attorney office in connection with the illegal construction, according to the police spokesman.

Mohammad Ajmal, a resident of the area, alleged powerful individuals had built houses near historical places. He said ordinary people were unable to go to the sites that were dug up secretly by strongmen. (Pajhwok)

(6) AGO to ...

graft cases.

"Although the anti-corruption justice center has done some general work and sent some cases to the court and verdicts were issued on them, overall it has not managed to attain the trust of the people, one of the reasons I heard is that there are some big corruption cases and they have failed to send them to the courts," said HOOAC chief Sayed Ghulam Hussain Fakhri.

Abdul Ghafar Dawi is accused of tax evasion, disregarding court orders and deception.

It was expected that Dawi's case would be referred to the court by now, but the AGO says the hearing has been delayed due to ongoing investigations and the addition of names of at least two deputy ministers and seven other suspects.

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers in parliament have expressed mixed views about the job of the ACJC.

"My view is that there is no commitment within the Afghan government to combat administrative and financial corruption," said MP Dawoud Kalakani.

"The Attorney General is a strong man," said MP Allah Gul Mujahid. Dawi Oil Ltd which is a branch of Dawi Group of Companies is a leading aviation fuel distributor at airports across Afghanistan. However the group is now facing charges such as deception and eight civil suits, due to debt worth millions of dollars, by private firms and government. (Tolonews)

(7) New Information ...

United States, which is not a member of the court and has in the past vehemently opposed it.

Bensouda's November report "triggered reaction, notably from the government of Afghanistan, which subsequently submitted substantial information to the office earlier this year," prosecutors said in the email.

That information, which probably covered local prosecutions of alleged crimes, is now being carefully reviewed. The ICC only has jurisdiction in situations where a member state such as Afghanistan is unwilling or unable to undertake prosecutions it-

self.

"When this review is completed, the prosecutor will make a final decision on whether to request the pre-trial chamber authorization to commence an investigation," the prosecutor's office said. It gave no timetable.

"This has to be seen as a step down by the prosecutor's office," said Kevin Jon Heller, an expert on the ICC and international law at Amsterdam University. "It is very rare for Bensouda to say a decision is imminent and then not to follow through: her statements are usually carefully measured and deliberate," he said.

All NATO members contributed to the International Security Assistance Force mission to Afghanistan that ran from 2001 until last year. Forces from the United States and other countries remain in the country on a NATO training exercise. (Reuters)

(8) Afghanistan Accepts..

government has welcomed the [Pakistani] proposal and a mechanism to undertake these simultaneous joint operations will be developed by our defense and security forces," Afghan presidential spokesman Dawa Khan Meenapal told VOA on Wednesday.

Pakistan military spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor, when contacted by VOA, confirmed the security deal with Afghan counterparts. However, he dismissed the reported impression that Afghan forces would be allowed to step on Pakistani soil.

"There is no concept of joint operations [on Pakistani soil]. Pakistan does not and will not allow foreign boots on the ground," said General Ghafoor.

He went on to explain that under the proposed "coordinated, complementary" operations, when Pakistani forces plan counterterrorism actions on their side of the border, Afghan counterparts will be required to mobilize forces on the other side and the other way around to prevent terrorists from fleeing.

McCain and his fellow senators, including Lindsay Graham, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren and David Perdue, held talks with Pakistani civilian and military leaders and visited a tribal region near the Afghan border on Monday before traveling to Kabul for talks with leaders there. President Ghani has long blamed Pakistan for not upholding its commitments to prevent terrorists from using Pakistani soil against Afghanistan. He has lately linked complete normalization of relations to the involvement of a third country to oversee actions and commitments undertaken by Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Afghan government alleges that Taliban insurgents and their ally, the Haqqani network, are using sanctuaries inside Pakistan for sustaining the insurgency in Afghanistan, charges Islamabad strongly rejects.

The offer of "coordinated" operations to Afghanistan came as Pakistan's military is building a fence on the long border and undertaking other fortification measures to deter militant infiltration in either direction. Islamabad has long complained that a lack of coordination from the Afghan side has allowed militants to flee security operations in the volatile Pakistani tribal belt and take refuge in Afghan border areas to plot attacks against Pakistan. (VoA)

(9) Afghan...

The competition, which starts on July 16, is the FIRST Global Challenge - a robotics Olympics dreamed up by Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway. He founded FIRST - For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology - a program to motivate students in science, technology, and engineering - in 1989.

Robotics teams from 162 countries are expected to attend the competition in the United States.

"When we visited the U.S embassy in Kabul, the U.S embassy told us that they can't issue B1 and B2 visas which are issued to the Afghan nationals, because we are participating in the competition; but these visas are issued to other nationals," said Ali Reza Mehraban, a trainer of the National Robotics Team.

"When we were denied the visas, some of our team members cried, but we did not lose hope and instead continue our efforts to make robots and to send them to the U.S," said Summaya Farooqi, a member of the robotics team. The team from Afghanistan - and its robot - will now be represented by Afghan-American students who have been recruited from Washington high schools. The same will be done with the Gambian team, which, like the Afghan girls, will be participating via Skype.

"There is success behind each failure, we consider it a success, because we will try harder and harder," said Kossar, a member of the robotics team. Visa denial to the Afghan and Gambi-

an teams sparked strong reactions in the U.S. Some U.S senators said that they will follow up the visa denial with the department of state.

The U.S's move comes at a time that America is grappling with the legality of President Donald Trump's order to temporarily ban travel of people from six Muslim majority countries. However, despite Afghanistan not having been included on the list, the U.S has issued visas to the robotics teams from Syria and Iran - which are on the travel ban list. (Tolonews)

(10) Residents ...

"The war is ongoing for the past three days. Taliban has entered our house. We left our house but we left our goods there," said Abdul Alim, another resident of the province.

However, Kunduz police chief Abdul Hamid Hamidi said security forces have repelled all Taliban attacks and that the group has suffered heavy losses in the battle.

"The militants do not have the ability to stand against the security forces who have gathered from different provinces," he said.

Kunduz provincial council says Taliban has physical presence in many villages of Taloka area.

According to the provincial council, Taliban has control over Shinwari and Naseriha villages in eastern parts of Kunduz city, the Omarkhail, Madrasa, Shna Tapa in south of the city, and Kanam, Hazrat Sultan, Mullah Sardar, Orta Balaqiha and Doblola villages in northern parts of Kunduz city.

The war in the outskirts of Kunduz city erupted on Sunday when groups of Taliban fighters attacked government forces' outposts in the outskirts of Kunduz city as well as in Ali Abad district along the Baghlan-Kunduz highway.

The Afghan army announced on Tuesday evening that they have cleared the Baghlan-Kunduz of militants. (Tolonews)

(11) Hundreds of ...

He said Daesh wanted to find a permanent foothold in Kunar in order to extend their activities to other provinces. "Kunar has a complex geography and shares a long border with neighboring Pakistan and this maybe the reason Daesh wants to build their bases here", he said.

He said Afghan security forces were fully prepared to deal with Daesh and the issue had been shared with the central government. The central government was asked to equip Afghan forces in Kunar so they were able to crush Daesh.

Himmat said NATO's Resolute Support (RS) mission had carried out 14 airstrikes on Daesh militants in different parts of Kunar since the start of the new solar year (March 22).

Military operations would continue in Kunar until all hideouts of the militant group were destroyed, the police chief said.

Apart from local insurgents, foreign terrorists were also active in the province and were involved in training and equipping new fighters and launching attacks, he said.

Himmat said before Daesh could create problems for the Afghan forces, they were targeted in joint air and ground operations in Manogi, Chapa Dara and some other parts of the province, in which hundreds of fighters and commanders of the group were killed.

The police chief said they would destroy all IS fighters in Kunar if equipped enough. He said the central government had promised equipping security forces with advanced weapons. (Pajhwok)

(12) Power Bills ...

access to electricity.

"When people ask DABS for electricity, they say they have no budget," he said, asking the government organs to clear their unpaid bills so the power utility would be able to distribute their services to the public.

Governor Abdul Karim Matin confirmed the problem, saying many government offices including the governor's house were defaulters. He asked all government organs to reduce power consumption and pay bills.

"In the past, the governor's house consumed electricity worth 200,000 afghanis every month, but now the consumption level has fallen to only 20,000 afghanis," he claimed. Matin promised the governor's house would soon pay its power bills. Electricity in Ghazni is provided by power generators, with each kilowatt accounting for 30 afghanis.

According to DABS, only 27 percent of people in Ghazni City have access to electricity. More than half of them have only seven hours of power supply and the rest 24 hours. (Pajhwok)

(13) Detained Kabul...

prevent the government leaders from

taking extrajudicial steps, accusing them of seizing the power by force.

The protests who were rallying under the name of 'Uprising for the Change' also demanded that justice should be served for their comrades who lost their lives during the clashes with the security forces. (KP)

(14) Nabil Reacts ...

Pakistan, specifically the country's military and intelligence for supporting the anti-government armed elements of Afghanistan and last year released several documents to prove his claims regarding the support the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network are receiving from the military intelligence of Pakistan. (KP)

(15) Taliban Deaths ...

Safi further added that the operations are being conducted with the support of the foreign forces based in the country, who are mainly providing air support to the Afghan troops and Special Forces on the ground.

The Helmand police chief also added that vast swaths of Loy Kali, Zhar Sahib, Mir Salim, and Ainak Kali have been cleared from the presence of the Taliban insurgents.

According to Safi, besides suffer loss of lives, dozens of vehicles and weapons belonging to the Taliban insurgents were also destroyed.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(16) 16 Members...

or escape to Iran.

Police spokesman Abdul Karim Yourish confirmed the development and said two police personnel were among those who had surrendered to the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, uprising commander Haji Hesamuddin strongly condemned the lack of government attention to the district, saying the group members were using their own resources against the Taliban.

He added when they suffered casualties, they needed help but the provincial administration did not respond to their phone calls. He commands 50 fighters who supported the government without any concessions. (Pajhwok)

(17) Woman, Child ...

large number of children among the 3,498 dead.

The report documented 11,418 conflict-related civilian casualties, including 3,498 people killed and 7,920 injured in 2016. Of these, 3,512 were children -- 923 dead and 2,589 injured, up by 24 percent from the previous highest-ever recorded figure. (AA)

(18) 4 Policemen ...

the capital of Farah province.

Provincial police spokesman, Iqbal Baher said that the two rebels along with some ammunition and a satellite telephone were detained in Karchi village of Farah city on Tuesday. (Pajhwok)

(19) Afghan Cricket ...

the International Cricket Council. The Afghanistan cricket board last month announced the national team squad for the match which includes Asghar Stanikzai, Noor Ali Zadrar, Samiullah Shinwari, Mohammad Nabi, Shafiqullah Shafaq, Gulbadin Naib, Rashid Khan, Javed Ahmadi, Dawlat Zadrar, Shapoor Zadrar, Rahmat Shah, Afsar Zazai, Nasir Jamal, and Farid Ahmad Malik. (KP)

Pakistan to Conduct Joint Ops with Afghanistan along Durand Line

KABUL - Concerns have been raised that key terrorist hideouts are not positioned along the Durand Line and that these will not be targeted.

The Presidential Palace said after paying a visit to Pakistani military officials, U.S senators assured Afghanistan that Pakistan, in coordination with Kabul, will conduct joint operations along the Durand Line.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman, deputy Najibullah Azad, said the operation will be conducted under the U.S's supervision.

"Both countries will launch operations in their territory against terrorists and oversee the U.S operations," said Azad.

"This means that both counties launch operations on their territory to destroy enemy nests on the other side of the Durand Line," said Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Defense (MoD). However, there are concerns that the main terrorist hideouts, which are not along the Durand Line, will remain safe and for this reason the effect of the operation will be questioned.

"The target must not be only war activities but target should also be the terrorist nests along the Durand Line," said Nasrullah Stanikzai, a university lecturer. (Tolonews)