

(1) We Made ...

President Ghani, his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbai Zheebekov, WB's high-level delegation, and representatives from the project's member countries were present at the meeting. President Rahmon, while welcoming the meeting participants, said CASA-1000 project's implementation plan was launched this year. He said the project was an example of real support, benefiting the people of their countries. He hoped the member states would further increase cooperation with each other in diverse fields, dubbing the power project as a bridge linking all these countries. He said the project would have a positive impact on social, economical and emergency issues. The Tajik leader thanked the member countries for their support in implementation of the project. He stressed works on the project should not be delayed but further intensified. President Ghani expressed gratitude to the Tajikistan government and the people for their hospitality, saying: "Today is a historical day because revisiting the past for future gives hope." "We have a joint vision for regional cooperation, our relations are based on 'benefit for benefit' formula," said Ghani, who congratulated the people of Tajikistan on the country's 25th Independence Day. The president said Afghanistan had the pride of being the first country to officially recognize Tajikistan's independence. He said Afghanistan had adjusted itself with trade and transit freedom principles and equality among states, especially among land-locked states, in finding access to ports was necessary. "I hope we will be able to transfer 15,000 MW to 16,000 MW of power to South Asia from Central Asia through Afghanistan. If we don't think high, then we will remain stuck in small projects," said Ghani of the project's importance for Afghanistan and central Asia. He said since the unity government coming into power, there had been no doubt regarding Afghanistan's government decisions about the CASA-1000 implementation. Ghani went on to say that Afghanistan had put all its efforts into turning the CASA-1000 from a concept into a practical project. Ghani added Afghanistan had completed all steps of the project as it funded and facilitated the scheme, and finally contracts were ready for signature. "As Tajikistan President emphasized, contracts should be inked among the four countries at one time because if one country is not sure about the other countries' contracts, it couldn't start work solely." Ghani called power production in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan a big opportunity, adding Afghanistan aimed to meet its domestic needs through local production in the next four years. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated his country's commitment to early implementation of CASA-1000 project. Addressing the Quadrilateral Session of CASA-1000 conference in Dushanbe, Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan needed energy for its socio-economic development and run its industrial sector to its full potential. He said the project would help generate employment opportunities and uplift standards of living of people of Pakistan. He expressed satisfaction that some of the world's leading manufacturers have expressed their keen interest to provide Converter Stations for CASA-1000. He pointed out that tenders for transmission lines from Kyrgyzstan to Tajikistan and from Tajikistan to Afghanistan have been floated and are currently being evaluated. The Prime Minister hoped that worked on the project would begin very soon. Sharif described CASA-1000 as flagship project in the region connecting Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia to Afghanistan and Pakistan in South Asia through an electricity grid. He said on its completion, Pakistan will get 1,000 MW and Afghanistan 300 MW electricity in summer time, from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Earlier, Sharif and Ghani held an informal meeting on Thursday, when both the leaders were expected to hold one on one meeting later in the day. A trilateral meeting of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan will also be held to discuss regional security and other issues of mutual understanding. Kyrgyzstani Prime Minister Zheebekov, for his part, briefed the member countries about the project's economical and transit advantages. At the end, WB's representative thanked the member countries for their commitments and promises in terms of accelerating implementation process of the scheme. He comprehensively informed the meeting about WB's efforts at realizing the project. After the meeting, President Ghani and other participants of the meeting visited Tajikistan's agriculture and food products

exhibition.(Pajhwok)

(2) Iranian Envoy...

Afghanistan's dam project at a conference on sandstorms in Tehran on Monday and said they cannot remain silent about such projects. "Construction of several dams in Afghanistan, such as Kajaki, Kamal Khan, Salma and others in the north and south of Afghanistan, affect our Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces," Rouhani said. Rouhani's remarks met with serious reactions in Afghanistan. Some Afghans said they consider it as Iran's "direct interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs". "Instead of thanking Afghanistan which most of its waters flow to Pakistan and Iran, they interfere in our internal affairs," said Imaduddin, a resident of Badakhshan. "Iranian president thinks that the water is belonged to them, while it belongs to us," said Kamran, a resident of Kabul. Afghan government says the environmental challenges which was discussed by Rouhani at the conference have affected Afghanistan more than Iran. "Terrible environmental effects in some parts of the country, like salt piles in Ghorian district in Farah province, in Chakhansur, Kang areas in Nimroz province are negative impacts of environment that have affected Afghanistan's environment," said Basir Azimi, the deputy minister energy and water. Kamal Khan Dam in Nimroz, Kajaki in Helmand and Bakhsh Abad Dam in Farah are under construction, the ministry of energy and water said. Studies have shown that the Helmand River has the capacity to fill 18 dams. On an 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 Harirood zones. Based on Article 5 of the Helmand River Treaty, 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. (Tolonews)

(3) MPs Seeking...

get their near and dear ones employed. Sadat complained there was too much pressure on the ministry. However, he explained: "I hate favoritism and would not surrender to pressures. Many MPs are not satisfied with my behavior. I don't employ any of those recommended by MPs, who just waste our time," Sadat insisted he had not recruited his relatives or friends to the ministry and people should come forward with evidence, if any, of merit violations by him. "I believe in qualifications and merit instead of nepotism and favoritism. And that's why I am not pricked by my conscience," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(4) Khalilzad Doubts ...

terrorist network are based in Peshawar, Quetta, and other parts of Pakistan from where they plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan. The Afghan officials earlier said that the deadly explosion near the embassy of Germany in Kabul was plotted by the Haqqani network in Pakistan, although the leaders of the network and the Taliban have rejected their role in the devastating attack that killed over one hundred and fifty people. (KP)

(5) Massoud Warns...

occasion where they appreciated Anwari's activities. "General Anwari was a brave leader a good manager during different periods," Ghani's advisor Sher Mohammad Bahadur said. "In the post-Taliban period and in the formation of the interim, transitional and elected governments, late Anwari played a key role in the country's administrative system," said Sayed Aqa Husain Fazel Sancharaki, deputy minister of information and culture for publications. Some participants of the ceremony urged the nation and politicians to stay united. "We should defend our soil and every one of us must see each other as their brothers and sisters. This is the only way for us to win," the economy minister Abdul Sattar Murad said. Anwari was an influential political and jihadi figure. He was head of Islamic Movement of Afghanistan. He died due to an illness last year. (Tolonews)

(6) UN Security...

slapped sanctions on a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, freezing its assets and subjecting it to an arms embargo. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) was added to the Islamic State and Al-Qaida Sanctions List by the powerful UN body on Thursday, says a report on the UN website. With links to the Islamic

State, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar has a presence in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province and the Mohmand tribal region of Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan welcomed the move, saying it had floated the proposal. The United States had added the militant group to the list of global terrorists last year. (Pajhwok)

(7) Afghan Robotics ...

Fatima Qaderian, a member of the team. "And we are happy that Afghanistan will participate in the contest." "Once we were denied, we became upset," said teammate Lida Azizi. "But we kept working and after we returned to Herat from Kabul, we got training and built our robot to send to the U.S. to prove to the world that Afghan girls can do it, and Afghan girls can develop their talents across the world." "We have not been deterred," said Ali Reza Mehrban, the team's director. "We kept constructing our robot and sent it via Federal Express to the contest."

The team's plight was widely reported in the U.S. In a Facebook post, former presidential contender Senator Bernie Sanders urged the State Department to reconsider.

The girls reportedly will be able to watch their ball-sorting robot compete via a video-link. (VoA)

(8) HPC Drawing...

monitoring organizations said that besides insecurity, the IEC is faced with many other hurdles including the possibility of not receiving the election budget, the reduction of electoral districts, the use of technology in the electoral process and the preparation of voters' list. "Differences inside the (independent election) commission have affected the required preparations for the elections," said Habib Shinwari, member of Election Watch Afghanistan. "Weapons and equipment of police are being sold. (Police) commander are going on their own way. I do not think the election's safety will be ensured in such a situation," said Rangina Kargar, an MP. The Independent Election Commission announced the 7th July 2018 as the parliamentary and district council elections' date. However, later on, the IEC warned that if the institutions working with commission, especially government do not maintain security and do not provide election budget, the election date may change. The HPC remarks are expressed at a time that heavy clashes are ongoing between government forces and insurgents in insurgents in parts of the country. (Tolonews)

(9) Politicians, authorities even threatened ACB officers with elimination over not including their people in the national team. "No type of pressure and interference is acceptable to us, if anyone tried to impose their own demands on ACB, they would fail," he said. About ACB achievements, Mashal said they included reforms, building facilities, infrastructure and creating a working mechanism. He said gaining full membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) was one of the greatest achievements of the ACB. Obtaining full ICC membership was both opportunity and responsibility so fundamental steps were needed to keep the status, he said. Mashal added soon a cricket academy would be inaugurated in capital Kabul that would provide special facilities for cricket fans. The ACB was trying to promote cricket in provinces which have been categorized in this regard, he said. He also said they planned to add cricket sport as a subject in school curriculum. About investment of the private sector, he said: "We for the first time were able to privatize cricket matches; some companies invested up to 150 million afghanis in this sport." (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistani Militias ...

Pakistani militia because local people would suffer. Meanwhile, another tribal elder, Sardar, said Pakistani's advancement into Afghanistan should be stopped. "Afghan border guards are on stand-by but the government has so far issued no order. Border police aren't alone, all area people strongly stand with them." Barmal border police commander Raz Mohamad, acknowledged the issue, saying they were awaiting orders from government leaders. He didn't go into details when he said residents strongly supported border police on the matter. Pakia local government officials denied speaking about the issue. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban Ban ...

Khairullah, to the public health department," the official said. That was the reason, the official said, a vaccination campaign scheduled for Thursday (July) along the Spin Boldak-Chaman border had to be delayed. Attempts at seeking comments from the Kandahar public health director and UNICEF office in Kandahar did not succeed while

no Taliban spokesman was immediately available. However, an official in Spin Boldak district, who wished to go unnamed, said that anti-polio vaccination program officials had started efforts to resolve the problem. The source said polio cases continued to surface in Kandahar and other southern provinces because of movements of people on the Durand Line. "The anti-polio campaign in Pakistan is very weak that has a negative impact on Afghanistan," the official added. Kandahar residents expressed concern over the Taliban threat and said the militant group should not play with children's health for personal demands. Abdul Shakoor, a resident of Spin Boldak district, told Pajhwok that more polio cases surfaced in Kandahar than other provinces. He said polio cases could increase if the Taliban's restriction continued. Spin Boldak district is 110 kilometers away from Kandahar City on the Durand Line. Kandahar acting public health director, Dr. Mohammad Azim Zmarial, had recently confirmed registering four positive polio cases in the country. He said one of the cases was detected in Kunduz province and the remaining three in southern provinces including Kandahar. One of the cases was registered among refugees returning from Pakistan. The Taliban previously banned anti-polio campaign in Kandahar about two years ago, but later allowed the drive thanks to efforts of provincial public health officials. (Pajhwok)

(12) Kabul Swimmers ...

Sajad Hussaini received the third position in the competition. "My message to sportsmen with disability is that sport can rescue them from the pain inflicted to them by disability and will make them powerful enough to enjoy their life," said Malik Mohammad Sabr, swimmer with disability. "I wish that one day I could hoist Afghanistan's flag in the world," said Komail Saeed, another swimmer. (Tolonews)

(13) FIA Official...

an alarm. Other airport staffers laughed at her plight. Police arrested the accused after examining CCTV footage and confirming the victim's account. The detainee will be produced before a magistrate today (Friday). (Pajhwok)

(14) Women and ...

been reported critical, the provincial government added. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as at least three civilians were killed, three were wounded, and three more were taken as hostages in an attack by the militants on a mosque in Chaparhar district. The latest violence mainly claiming the lives of the civilians comes as the anti-government armed militants, specifically the Taliban group are blamed for the majority of the civilian casualties. (KP)

(15) 2 Afghans...

in the indictment to which Lajaward and Said pled guilty, Lajaward and Said, both Afghan nationals, were part of a drug trafficking organization based in Afghanistan that produced and distributed large quantities of heroin. Between approximately May 2014 and June 2015, Lajaward and Said worked together in an effort to import large quantities of heroin - in the range of 1,000 kilograms - from Afghanistan into the United States. Ambassador Hugo Llorens, Special Charge d'Affaires U.S. Embassy, Kabul, explained: "this case is an important illustration of how the Governments' of the United States and Afghanistan are working together to bring narcotic traffickers to justice in both Afghanistan and in the United States. He added, "it should remind the drug traffickers of Afghanistan - whoever they are - they cannot escape justice forever."

According to the statement, sentencing is scheduled for November 1 in United States District Court, before United States District Court Judge Kimba M. Wood. Lajaward and Said each face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. (KP)

(16) Drugs Available ...

started using drugs inside the prison. He claimed to have seen many individuals becoming addicts inside the prison. Farooq, yet another freed prisoner, said: "Police have agents inside the prison who are used for selling drugs." However, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Tawab Ahmadzai, Pul-i-Charkhi Prison commander, rejected claims as baseless that prison guards supplied drugs to inmates. "In the past, drugs were sold inside the prison but our firm stance and efforts resulted in bringing it down to the minimum

level." He said visiting family members of prisoners had a role in bringing the drugs in. "We have arrested many such people and have handed them over the judicial organs." He said the lack of scanners at the prison helped prisoners' attendees bring the drugs inside the prison. However, Abdul Saibor, who was visiting his imprisoned brother, said: "Attendants cannot even carry even a small pin secretly to the prison; it is just an excuse to hide the reality, attendees can't do this." He claimed drugs were brought inside the Pul-i-Charkhi jail by security personnel in cooperation with some prisoners. Pul-i-Charkhi prison is one of Afghanistan's biggest jails, currently holding 9,614 prisoners, according to officials. (Pajhwok)

Xi Urges BRICS to Promote Open World Economy, Multilateralism, Common Development

HAMBURG, Germany - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday urged the BRICS members to unswervingly promote the building of an open world economy, multilateralism and common development.

He made the appeal at an informal leaders' meeting of the emerging-market bloc, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, ahead of a Group of 20 (G20) summit in the German port city of Hamburg.

The BRICS leaders exchanged views on the current international political and economic circumstances and the G20's priorities, and reached important agreements on strengthening BRICS unity and coordination, jointly improving global economic governance and promoting sustainable development.

"Currently, the global economy is showing some positive signs, and the prospects for the development of BRICS countries are growing brighter in general, which is very inspiring," said Xi, who presided over the meeting.

However, there have also emerged some challenges that require the BRICS countries to watch closely and handle properly, he added, pointing out that this year's G20 summit comes at a critical moment when the global political and economic situation is undergoing profound adjustments.

Noting that the BRICS countries are all important G20 members, he called on the bloc to support Germany as the host of the summit, and to send a signal that the G20 is committed to fostering partnership, building an open world economy, and boosting global economic growth. (Xinhua)

DPRK Warns U.S. against Further Military Gambling

PYONGYANG - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday warned the United States against further resorting to military gambling.

A spokesman for the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee said in a statement that "the U.S. Defense Department is loudly trumpeting a military attack option" advocated by U.S. President Donald Trump to cope with the north's "provocations."

The DPRK said that the U.S. promise that it would not invade "is a whopping lie and a trick to cover up its sinister intention to put its war ambitions into practice through a surprise attack," said the spokesman.

A spokesman for the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said Friday that the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Tuesday by Pyongyang is a "victory achieved by the army and people of the DPRK in their more than half-a-century long anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. showdown." (Xinhua)

Trump-Putin Meeting to Test Bilateral Ties

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, in a meeting that will be the first test of whether Trump can improve strained relations with Moscow, experts said.

Trump campaigned last year on promises to mend relations with Russia, in a bid to team up with the Kremlin to defeat the terror group Islamic State, given Russia's clout in the Middle East.

"Trump's meeting with Putin is a major test of the administration's relationship with Russia," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

Indeed, there are many sources of tension between the two nations, such as what the United States believes to be Russia's alleged meddling in its 2016 election. The Syrian war, the role of Iran, and tensions on the Korean Peninsula are also issues of contention between Moscow and Washington. (Xinhua)