

(1) Kabul Hosts First...

The Ambassadors of India and China hailed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership for hosting the first trilateral summit and added that their countries are prepared to cooperate in the mentioned sectors. (KP)

(2) Egypt's Planning...

The government initiated the reform program in November 2016 and focused on several pillars: reforming the existing legislative and institutional system; creating the necessary infrastructure to attract investors to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development through investment in infrastructure projects and projects for the Suez Canal, and finally the establishment of industrial zones and new cities, including the New Administrative Capital. (Monitoring Desk)

(3) Freedoms Should...

taken thousands of lives in the country over the past few years. "The war should end at any cost. They should allow the people to enjoy a normal life and live in peace," said Nasiba Arya, a women's rights activist.

The participants of the ceremony said women can play a key role in peace; therefore, their role should not be ignored by government. (Tolo news)

(4) Criminals...

complained about criminal cases and open sales of drugs in Kabul and said, "We cooperate; but criminals should not be released, freeing criminals without trying them in the judicial system made people disappointed,"

Roshandil said suggestions and complaints of local representatives would be paid attention. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan, Kazakh...

managers, establishment of training camps for coaches and athletes, exchange of coaches and participation of athletes in international and regional competitions.

The event was held four three days from Feb. 28 to March 2, Saturday. The agenda included a variety of topics, reports relating to previous sports events and the upcoming games.

The NOC delegation was headed by Talal Al Shinqeeti, Acting Secretary-General; Ahmed Al Tayeb, Director of Technical and Sports Affairs; and Batti Al Abdouli, Manager of Performance Follow-up and Development Office at the NOC.

Afghanistan was one of the first five founding members of the Asian Games Federation on 13 February 1949, in New Delhi; the organization was disbanded on 26 November 1981 and replaced by the Olympic Council of Asia. (Tolo news)

(6) Details Awaited...

within six months from Afghanistan, but the United States side insists that they cannot do so in six months and they need more time," said Sayed Akbar Agha, a former member of the Taliban.

According to sources, Taliban expects that this time the two sides will reach an agreement on issues making agenda of the talks, but political analysts articulate that it is early to predict any breakthrough out of these talks.

"The details will leak if they reach an agreement about these two important topics. But if they don't reach an agreement, details will not hold any weight in that case," said Mawlawi Qalamuddin, head of Hizb-e-Harakat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami Afghanistan.

The four main topics of US-Taliban talks in Qatar have been US

forces withdrawal from Afghanistan, ensuring that Afghanistan's territory is not used as a threat to any other country, a comprehensive ceasefire and direct talks with the Afghan government. This was confirmed by the Afghan government as well as by sources ahead of the talks.

The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad, who is leading the talks with the Taliban members for the fifth time in Qatar since his appointment last September, said on Feb. 28 that he had some constructive discussions with the group in Doha.

A number of women activists at a rally in Kabul on Sunday criticized backdoor talks between US and Taliban in Qatar. The activists said no one has the right to make a decision on the fate of women, who make half of the Afghan society. Mahbuba Saraj, a women's rights activist, said women should have an "equal role" in the peace process as men.

This comes after the Afghan government, which has been out of these talks due to the persistent refusal by the Taliban, on Saturday called on Afghan politicians and people from different layers of the society to introduce their delegates for a national and inclusive negotiating team which will conduct peace talks on behalf of Afghans.

The formation of an inclusive national team for peace talks is a demand by the US chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad.

An 11-member team formed by government last year but it was criticized for not being inclusive. (Tolo news)

(7) UN, Norway Providing...

also on the agenda.

The Taliban, however, has said that the issue of talks with Kabul is not in its agenda for the meeting. (Agencies)

(8) Some Paktika...

of the Sharan, the provincial capital, a large number of vehicles have been stuck in the snow and urged the government officials to take steps to reopen the roads promptly.

He said a contractor firm has lack of enough machines therefore we will not give them complete money.

He accused the company which held the contract for clearing the roads over lack of machinery to effectively conduct its operation and warned not to give them complete money. Samkani promised to work seriously along with the authorities concern to reopen the roads for people.

Public Works Department Head Mudir Ahmadzai said some roads had been cleared for traffic while snow clearing operation was underway on other roads. (Pajhwok)

(9) Airstrikes Leave...

were killed. Tens of their fighting positions, hideouts and depots destroyed as well."

"Mentioned enemy commanders had played active role in planning suicide attacks, placing IEDs and conducting offensives in their respective areas," MoD said, adding that the Afghan Air Forces alongside other Afghan National Defense and Security Forces are ready to defend the country under any circumstance and will not spare any effort in fighting terrorism and destroying enemy havens. The anti-government armed militants including Taliban have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(10) Drug Dealers...

and confiscated a pistol along with

252 bullets were confiscated. The Counter-Narcotics Task Force police forces also arrested two other drug dealers in Khost province and confiscated 39 sachets of drugs, the Ministry of Interior added in its statement. (KP)

(11) Afghanistan Grants...

Palestine Refugees in the Near East at the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in UAE.

Thanking Rabbani for his country's assistance to Palestinian people, Pierre Krahenbuhl said that the funds will be spent on education of the Palestinian refugees.

The provided \$1 million money was transferred to UN bank account through Afghan embassy in Turkey, the statement noted.

The announcement comes after the United States halted all funding to the agency last year. (ATN)

(12) US & South...

The scaling-down was widely expected, since Trump has repeatedly bemoaned the drills' hefty price tag that the US has to cover. Following the first Trump-Kim summit in June 2018, Trump said that the US would halt joint drills with South Korea, while calling them "quite provocative," stirring unease among his own military.

Shortly after that, Washington and Seoul suspended the large-scale Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises scheduled for August.

In November, then-Pentagon chief James Mattis stated that the Foal Eagle drills were "being reorganized a bit to keep it at a level that will not be harmful to diplomacy." (RT)

(13) China Considers...

law on foreign investment that aims to address complaints by Washington, Europe and other trading partners that China's system is rigged against foreign companies.

Trump cited complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology when he slapped punitive tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports in July. Europe, Japan and other trading partners disapprove of the tariff hikes but echo U.S. complaints.

China has balked at changing its strategy for nurturing technologies that American officials worry might challenge U.S. industrial dominance. But communist leaders face pressure to reach a settlement after economic growth sagged to a three-decade low of 6.6 percent last year.

On the domestic front, companies and investors are hoping officials announce details of how Beijing will carry out promises to curb the dominance of state industry and support entrepreneurs who generate much of China's new jobs and wealth. They are looking for details of a promised cut of up to 1.3 trillion yuan (\$200 billion) in value-added and other taxes.

The congress opens Tuesday with an annual "work report" on government plans by Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 ruling party leader behind Xi and China's top economic official.

State media have cited other potential topics including revising China's patent law — another source of foreign complaints — and measures to encourage foreign investment in agriculture and technology and developing free-trade zones.

Chinese officials deny Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over trade secrets and technology. But they are trying to mollify Trump and other governments by promising better legal protections.

"I think the (American and Euro-

pean) complaints have been reflected in the revision of the law," said Citigroup economist Li-Gang Liu. (AP)

(14) Russia Tells...

ministry said, referring to Maduro.

Earlier this month, the United States imposed new sanctions on six Venezuelan security officials and revoked the visas of dozens of associates and their families with ties to Maduro, in the latest move to pile pressure on him to step down.

Lavrov and Pompeo also agreed to continues talks on the expert level regarding Syria, Afghanistan and the Korean peninsula. (Reuters)

(15) Russian Oil Expert...

While the essence of the charges Kalinin is facing are not yet clear, Rahiotis believes they are politically motivated. The lawyer pointed out that Kalinin's name has been included in a database of the notorious Ukrainian website Mirotvorts (Peacekeeper). The ultranationalist site contains a blacklist of 'traitors' who it says must be dealt with. On the list, Kalinin has found himself in the company of such big foreign political names as former German chancellor Gerhard Shroeder, who was added to the 'hit-list' in November, prompting the German Foreign Ministry to reprimand Kiev for not taking down the website.

"This case is a political one. Kalinin is included into the Mirotvorts list. He is being persecuted because he was a supporter of former president Victor Yanukovich," Rahiotis said.

Russian diplomats have been in contact with Kalinin, and have been providing him "with all necessary consular assistance," the Russian Embassy in Greece said, as cited by Sputnik. (RT)

(16) Google Rules...

profile or your family members, or labors working for you, and perform a range of eServices online." In the ultra-conservative kingdom with its strict male guardianship system, these services include helping a male guardian see if a woman attempts to use her passport, and stop her from leaving.

As she filed a request with Apple CEO Tim Cook and Google CEO Sundar Pichai to pull the app, Speier warned that if the companies keep it on their platforms, they would become "accomplices in the oppression of Saudi Arabian women and migrant workers." She told Insider that both Apple and Google missed the deadline to remove the app by February 28. "As of today, the Absher app remains available in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store even though they can easily remove it," Speier said, slamming the response by the tech giants as "deeply unsatisfactory." (RT)

(17) US Denies...

"Despite the successful completion of all preparatory work by the Syrian government to bring the refugees out of the Rukban camp and to the places of permanent resettlement, the US side has rejected the joint call [by Russia and Syria] asking them to let the transport columns into the Al-Tanf zone," Solomatin said.

Over 40,000 refugees, mainly women and children, are estimated to be living in the camp after being displaced by years of conflict. They are said to be suffering from a shortage of adequate medical assistance and basic supplies. It is not clear why the US military blocked access for the Russia-backed mission. Washington has repeatedly called on Moscow to facilitate the delivery of UN human-

itarian aid to the Rukban camp, calling for Damascus to provide "rapid, safe and unhindered" access to the refugees.

"We urge that access for humanitarian assistance must continue to Rukban and to all areas in Syria where people are in need," the US State Department said in February. (RT)

(18) Mafia 'Super...

told Sky News that Di Lauro had joined a criminal organization that clashed with other mafia groups in 2000, starting the reported "secondigliano feud," which resulted in several killings.

Naples police chief Antonio De Lesu told reporters at a press conference that "unusual activity" had led police to the fugitive.

Di Lauro was considered the second most dangerous man in Italy, after Sicilian Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro, according to Italian media. (Fox News)

(19) 5 Years on...

event at a mall near Kuala Lumpur that the company hopes to resume the hunt with better technology it obtained in the past year.

The Ocean Infinity mission came a year after an official search by Malaysia, Australia and China ended in futility.

Plunkett said his company has better technology now after successfully locating an Argentinian submarine in November, a year after it went missing. He said the firm is still reviewing all possible data on Flight 370 and thinking about how it can revive its failed mission.

"We haven't given up hope. ... We hope we can continue the search in due course," Plunkett said.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said it's been frustrating that the two searches failed to produce any clues and that he "welcomes credible leads and also concrete proposals to resume the search."

He told reporters later Sunday that the government is "waiting for specific proposals, in particular from Ocean Infinity." He brushed off suggestions of offering rewards to find the plane, but said the government is willing to discuss proposals from any companies prepared to resume the search.

"There must be a proposal from a specific company ... we cannot just be out there without credible leads. That's the most practical thing to do," Loke said.

The plane vanished with 239 people on board on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Confirmed debris that washed ashore in the western Indian Ocean helped narrow the search area where Ocean Infinity focused, but it failed to uncover any evidence.

A Malaysian-led independent investigation report released last July showed lapses in the government's response and raised the possibility of "intervention by a third party."

Investigators, however, said the cause of the disappearance cannot be determined until the wreckage and the plane's black boxes are found. The report reiterated Malaysia's assertion that the plane was deliberately diverted and flown for over seven hours after severing communications. (AP)

(20) On Brink of...

An SDF commander there told Reuters that IS had sent explosive-ridden vehicles toward advancing fighters the night before. Air strikes destroyed two of them, and the SDF fired on a third to blow it up, he said.

The jihadists also shelled the approaching force. (Reuters)