

(1) Media Role...

contacts and exchange of visits at the political level.

He told the conference that cultural and religious diversity in China played an important role in the development of its economy -- a good example for Afghanistan.

He also commended the One Belt One Road project of the Chinese president for connecting regional countries and bringing about an economic revolution.

Zabihullah Khorshidi, a journalist with Shamshad TV, and Hamid Hamdard, a representative of Spogmi Radio, emphasized deeper ties between two countries.

China International Radio Director Xi Meng Ahmad Zalmi noted relations between Kabul and Beijing had been strengthened considerably over the past decade.

He pointed out broadcasts of the Pashto branch of Radio China had entered their 45th years.

He added the proposal for setting up the radio had been floated by a former prime minister during his visit to Kabul in the solar year 1373. The idea was welcomed and accepted by then Afghan president Sardar Dawood Khan.

Xi Meng said his radio had many fans in Afghanistan and its facebook page had around one million followers. (Pajhwok)

(2) Female Afghan...

in the United States, the coders show what reserves of talent there are to be tapped when Afghan girls are given a chance.

"Coders can work from home and it is in this process women are building a new career path for themselves and for the next generation," said Hasib Rasa, project manager of Code to Inspire, which teaches female students coding in Herat.

One of the games designed by the all-female team has caught the eye of developers and gamers as it illustrates the scourge of opium cultivation and the challenges the Afghan security forces face as they try to stamp it out.

The 2D game "Fight Against Opium" is an animated interpretation of the missions that Afghan soldiers undertake to destroy opium fields, fight drug lords and help farmers switch to growing saffron.

Afghanistan is the world's largest source of opium but it also grows saffron - the world's most expensive spice - which has long been pushed as an alternative to wean farmers off a crop used to make heroin.

Despite a ban, opium production hit a record in 2017, up 87 percent over 2016, according to a U.N. study.

Khatira Mohammadi, a student who helped develop the anti-opium game, said she wanted to show the complexities of the drug problem in the simplest way.

"We have illustrated our country's main problem through a game," said Mohammadi.

At the institute, more than 90 girls and young women, wearing headscarves and long black coats, are trained in coding and software development, a profession seen by some in conservative Afghanistan as unsuitable for women.

In Afghan society, it is unusual for women to work outside the home. Those who do, are mostly teachers, nurses, doctors, midwives and house helpers.

After the ouster of the Taliban in 2001, women regained freedom to work in offices with male colleagues - but many consider working as a software developer a step too far.

Hasib Rasa said girls are encouraged to design original player characters, goals, and obstacles that reflect Afghanistan's ethos.

The course is exclusively aimed at females, aged 15-25, who are unable to pursue a four-year degree due to lack of funds or hail from families where they are prevented from enrolling in co-education schools.

"In Afghanistan the ability to work remotely is a key tool in the push for equality," said Rasa. (Reuters)

(3) Afghanistan...

trade ties with Kabul.

This is the first ever workshop to be held in Kabul on trade issues be-

tween the two countries.

Aryadi said a big trade exhibition will open in Indonesia in the next a few months, and they will provide the context for Afghan traders to share in the exhibition and showcase their goods.

"It is a historical event, because this is the first time we are providing this training for import and export procedures especially to Indonesia," said Aryadi.

Mohammad Haroon Hafiz, a representative of the exportation development directorate at the commerce and industries ministry, said: "This learning workshop is organized to deliver information regarding exports and imports between Indonesia and Afghanistan. Traders, exporters and importers of both countries are present and we hope it be a good chance for the promotion of relationships between the two countries."

Based on Indonesian embassy statistics, Afghanistan exports to Indonesia in 2017 increased by 24 percent against 2016, and this year the export value reached over 20 million US dollars.

"The conditions should be provided for those who are interested to import goods from Indonesia to Afghanistan and export goods from Afghanistan to Indonesia," Nisar Ahmad, head of Afghanistan and Indonesia Traders Council, said.

Indonesia will hold its yearly trade exhibition in October. According to the embassy, last year at this exhibition, 125 traders from Afghanistan participated. (Tolo news)

(4) Mohqiq Rejects...

leader of Hezb-e-Islami.

In the meantime, the office of the second deputy of the chief executive, stated that Mr. Mohaqiq had left the meeting as he had to participate in another important meeting.

The issue of the electronic national identity cards distribution still remains a controversial topic as differences still exist among the key political figures.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani formally inaugurated the distribution of the electronic national identity cards during a ceremony last week. (KP)

(5) Rahane to...

Asian country and Ireland joined the ranks of full member nations of the International Cricket Council last year, taking the total number of test-playing countries to 12.

India also decided to manage the workloads of other test regulars, opting to rest batsman Rohit Sharma and pace duo Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah for the Afghanistan test.

Batsman Karun Nair, seamer Shardul Thakur and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav were drafted in. Thakur is yet to play in the five-day format for India.

The world's top-ranked test side last played the longest format in January in South Africa, where they lost a hard-fought three-test series 2-1.

Uncapped medium-pacer Siddarth Kaul made it into both India's T20 and 50-over sides for the tour of Ireland and England after impressive performances for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League.

Batsmen Lokesh Rahul and Ambati Rayudu were also rewarded with spots in the ODI side after strong showings in the IPL. (Reuters)

(6) Half of Afghan...

the last couple of years.

Meanwhile, the report indicates that during the last five years most of the Afghans have been displaced internally from Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nimruz and Farah provinces due to the war.

At the same event, IOM Afghanistan's Chief of Mission Laurence Hart said that the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tracks and monitors displacement and migration flows and it supplies data for informed government policy decisions.

Afghanistan is among the countries with the largest number of refugees in the World. Currently, more than three million people have been internally displaced and nearly 5 million Afghans have been immigrated to foreign countries including

Iran and Pakistan due to poverty, unemployment, and war. (ATN)

(7) Govt to Open...

and they live like brothers, we call on government to stop the delivery of ID cards," said MP Zaheer Saadat.

"Continuation of this job will create a crisis, we call on the international community to address this issue," said Jawed Kohistani, a political analyst.

This comes at a time that the e-NIC roll out has hit constant delays over the past few years due to political disagreements between Afghan political leadership.

"A center will be opened soon in a part of Kabul," said Rohullah Ahmadzai, ACCRA spokesman.

"This action of government will split Pashtun people from Tajik people, and Hazara people from Uzbek people and will create division," said Ramish Noori, another political activist.

The electronic national ID card system was officially launched in Kabul last Thursday when President Ashraf Ghani and the First Lady Rula Ghani were handed their cards.

The CEO of the National Unity Government (NUG) Abdullah Abdullah last week held a press conference and said the electronic ID card system was not legitimate and did not have the support of the Afghan people.

"The reason I have not participated in the distribution of electronic Tazkiras (ID cards) is that I know this process has not received the needed legitimacy and support from the Afghan people. A one-sided decision approved by all sides can only lead to crisis and more problems," Abdullah said.

According to ACCRA, the electronic identity cards will be issued in six phases. The first phase will take six months in which the ID cards will be issued in five centers in Kabul. The next phase will entail ID cards being issued in the provinces. (Tolo news)

(8) Navy SEAL...

the valley.

"Then-Senior Chief Slabinski boldly rallied his remaining team and organized supporting assets for a daring assault back to the mountain peak in an attempt to rescue their stranded teammate," the White House said. "Later, after a second enemy-opposed insertion, then-Senior Chief Slabinski led his six-man joint team up a snow-covered hill, in a frontal assault against two bunkers under withering enemy fire from three directions."

The White House, in a statement, added that Slabinski "repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he engaged in a pitched, close-quarters firefight against the tenacious and more heavily armed enemy forces." Increasing enemy fire and casualties eventually forced members of the team to retreat.

A New York Times account of the battle said Slabinski's teammate who fell out of the helicopter was, unbeknownst to them, already dead and the enemy had tried to decapitate him.

John Chapman, an Air Force technical sergeant, was wounded in the assault and later died.

That death has been surrounded by controversy as the Air Force has claimed that Chapman was still alive, but unconscious, when Slabinski made the call to retreat. Air Force officials believe Chapman later killed two Al Qaeda fighters on the mountaintop - including one in hand-to-hand combat, before being struck by gunfire. Slabinski had told the New York Times that he had crawled on top of Chapman amid the gunfire and didn't detect a response.

"I'm trying to direct what everybody's got going on, trying to see what's going on with John; I'm already 95 percent certain in my mind that he's been killed," he said in a 2016 interview with the newspaper. "That's why I was like, 'OK, we've got to move.'"

Three Army Rangers, an Army helicopter crewman and an Air Force Commando were killed later that day after arriving as reinforcements, the newspaper added.

"Senior Chief Slabinski maneuvered his team to a more defensible position, directed air strikes in very close proximity to his team's position, and requested reinforcements," the White House said. "Carrying a seriously wounded teammate down a sheer cliff face, he led an arduous trek across one kilometer of precipitous terrain, through waist-deep snow while continuing to call fire on the enemy who was engaging the team from the surrounding ridges.

"During the subsequent 14 hours, he stabilized casualties on his team and continued the fight against the enemy until the mountaintop was secured by the quick reaction force and his team was extracted," it added.

Slabinski, in his military career, completed 15 combat deployments in support of the global war on terrorism. (Agencies)

(9) 1.3 Million...

The IEC has established 1,419 voting registration centers across the country, with the majority inside school premises. Families have argued they are concerned about the security of their children.

"People do not allow their children to go to school, I have a son and wait for him the whole day," said another resident of Kabul, Ramadan.

Reports indicate that many families in Kabul have been preventing their children from attending schools in the wake of last month's suicide attack by a Daesh militant group at an election-related facility in Kabul, which left scores of civilians dead and wounded.

According to IEC, the voter turnout in Kabul has been the highest compared to other provinces.

Over 35,000 people register in Kabul on daily basis, the IEC said. The total number of people registered in Kabul since the start of the process is estimated at 460,000.

"During the assessment programs, the commission pulled out of a number of centers established inside people's homes and in homes of powerful people, and relocated them inside mosques and Madrasas (religious schools). Centers should be established in areas accessible to the people. People are concerned, but if God willing, nothing happens, the security forces are providing security," said Awalurrahman Rodwal, chairman of Kabul voter registration center.

IEC says from the total number of 7,350 polling stations in the country, 948 stations are located in areas under control of militants.

The commission has scheduled parliamentary and district councils' elections on October 20.

According to the IEC's timeline, the first phase of the voter registration process at provincial centers will continue until May 13. The process will start in district centers on May 15 until May 28. From May 30 to June 12, the process will be carried out in villages and remote areas across the country.

IEC officials have said the commission would like to register 12 to 15 million people for the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections. (Tolo news)

(10) Bowlers...

Virat Kohli who got 39 runs for his team off 30 balls, saw the team lose their way in the second-half of their innings.

ACB's batsmen not bat well in the second-half of their innings and got 141 runs from 20 overs.

Afghan spinner Rashid Khan also got a key wicket for Sunrisers during Monday night's match. Sunrisers to play their next match on May 20 against Delhi Daredevils. (Tolo news)

(11) Pakistan, US...

Taliban and the Islamic State have claimed responsibility for the recent attacks in Kabul, apparently aimed at disrupting the electoral process. Afghanistan is slated to have parliamentary elections this year and the presidential elections next year. Recent attacks have targeted centers for voters' registration.

"The security situation in Afghanistan is getting murkier with time. And, unfortunately, there's

all the reason to believe it is going to get worse in the coming days. It appears as if the recent calls for peace were nothing but hogwash," Shafiqat said.

He said that the Taliban and the Islamic State were never serious about the peace initiatives, a plain fact that has not been understood by the US policymakers.

"The idea of peace talks is great, but this back and forth rhetoric based on peace initiatives and direct strikes just doesn't serve the purpose."

Taliban has seemingly spurned the peace offer by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani after they announced to start the Spring Offensive.

In the given situation, the expert said that the US must look into options in order to stand a viable chance to wipe the terrorists out, including working closely with Pakistan to achieve the desired goals.

He also said that the US needs to focus more on Afghanistan rather than the Middle East more broadly as Afghanistan is one country in the region that appears easier for terrorists to infiltrate.

"Islamic State might be on the run, but if left unchecked, it can wreak havoc in Afghanistan and beyond," he added. (Agencies)

(12) ISIS Fundraiser...

Zabiullah originally hails from Khogyani district and was living in Kabul.

Zabiullah had recently visited Nangarhar to carry out a targeted assassination attack on instructions of the terrorist groups, the statement added.

The provincial government also added that the two suspects have confessed to their crimes and are currently in the custody of the security forces.

This comes as the NDS forces had earlier arrested a group of five people on charges of kidnapping in this province. (KP)

(13) Former NDS...

(Chief Executive Abdullah's office) are not safe (from these attacks). It should be acknowledged that no one is responsible for these devastating challenges and the crisis, except you gentlemen," the letter said.

In another part of the letter, Nabil criticizes war management by government leaders.

"Do you know what an 11 percent fall in the number of our security and defense forces in a year has meant, and what message did it deliver to the 'so-called' Commander in Chief? No doubt, the clear message is that all your plans and policies on security and defense are inefficient and have failed," Nabil said.

Nabil has pointed to the increase in poverty among the people, saying that government leaders' inefficiency has resulted in 54 percent of people living below the poverty line.

Finally, the letter has highlighted the advantage of the government leaders' resignation, saying it will help remove discrimination and improve tolerance among the people. (Tolo news)

(14) There are More...

"If the women's rights being preserved in their household and the level domestic violence declined, it is certain that we will not face this issue," Sima Samar said.

This comes as according to AI-HRC findings, 137 women along with their 27 children are living in supportive shelters which some of them are in uncertain fate. (ATN)

(15) Pakistanis among...

were looking to carry out coordinated attacks in Momand Dara and Bati Kot.

The Afghan forces have also confiscated and destroyed 5 PKM machine guns, 4 rocket launchers, 9 Ak-47 rifles, 8 communication sets, 20 rockets, 9 landmines, 100 meters of power line, ammunition of PKM machine gun and several other types of the explosives, the governor's office added.

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