

(1) Corruption...

mention the existing problems, acknowledge them and fashion a workable strategy, based on public demands, to deal with the challenge," the president remarked.

However, he called for national sovereignty in the fight against the menace. In the absence of national sovereignty, he explained, an anti-graft drive would not yield the desired results.

Ghani stressed strengthening global cooperation in the war on corruption, saying the issue should not be assigned to the backyard after elections. Ahead of the event, Ghani said in an interview he had no issue with British Premier David Cameron calling Afghanistan as one of the most corrupt countries on earth." (Pajhwok)

(2) NATO, Partners ...

is NATO's response to the international community's commitment in the framework of the 2012 Chicago Summit to continue supporting Afghanistan's its efforts to sustain sufficient and capable National Defence and Security Forces.

"The ANA Trust Fund has been an important part of NATO's contribution to this Endeavour," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was quoted as saying in a statement from the alliance after Wednesday's meeting.

He hailed the meeting as "an important steppingstone towards the NATO Warsaw Summit in July, as well as the EU Development Conference in October. Both meetings are connected as security and development are two sides of the same coin," Stoltenberg said.

Continued financial support for the sustainment of Afghan forces up to 2020 was pledged. "I am confident we will be in a position to announce at the Warsaw Summit that we have firm commitments to support the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces for the period up to 2020." (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghans Ready...

mosques, hotels and other empty buildings in Torkham, Landikotal and other areas, a paramilitary commander told Pajhwok Afghan News. Local residents offered food and shelter to the Afghans who spent a night in the open at different places in Landikotal. More than 300 Afghans had to stay in an under-construction mosque in Landikotal bazaar, he said. Backed by tanks and armoured vehicles, troops from both countries were moved close to the Durand Line, according to the commander, who did not want to be named. Government servants, workers of private offices, students and teachers were asked to quit the tense border area.

Scores of trucks and trailers carrying fresh fruit and vegetables stayed stranded for the second day on the Pakistani side of the border. Worried by the situation, transporters put ice-blocks in the vegetables and fruits to keep them from going rotten.

Muslimyar, addressing a gathering in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, said the border was closed after the Afghan forces prevented their Pakistani counterparts from constructing installations. "We hope the issue will be resolved through talks. If not, we will stand by our border forces in their reaction."

The Senate chairman criticised Pakistan's policies towards Afghanistan, saying the neighbouring country after failing to honour pledges on fighting terrorism now wanted to divert people's attention elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Wolesi Jirga member Faridon Khan Momand said the border closure had left stranded thousands of people who faced numerous problems. He said the cross border transportation had come to a close and the issue needed to be resolved soon.

He said the fencing by the Pakistani forces was against international laws and Pakistan closed the border in reaction to not allowing the fencing. (Pajhwok)

(4) Govt. Has....

(AIEC) and Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).

After his decree was rejected, the president issued another decree regarding electoral reforms with some amendments.

FEFA programme manager, Mohammad Naeem Asghari, told a press conference here that in addition to not having a political will for electoral reform, the government has been trying to further delay the long due parliamentary and district council elections.

"If the electoral system is not reformed, we can't hold elections in October because it would be worse than 2014 elections," he said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Russia in ...

relations, he said it was positive and positions of both the countries coincided on 80 percent of issues.

On President Putin's much-speculated visit to Pakistan, he argued that there would have to be something substantive for the Russian head of state to come to Islamabad. (IRNA)

(6) Afghanistan to...

meeting with Chinese leaders, including regional and global issues, Afghan-Sino relations, security cooperation, economic promotion and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

Abdullah lauded the Belt and Road Initiative, saying it is able to provide better connectivity, communication and cooperation in the region.

"First of all, we are supportive of that broad vision which provides better connectivity and better communication. And secondly, because of our location, we can benefit from it and we can also contribute towards it," said Abdullah.

Explaining Afghanistan's strategic location, he said his country is a historical hub along the ancient Silk Road and can provide connectivity to all countries in east Asia, west Asia and south Asia.

Afghanistan is known for its rich reserves of several natural resources, including copper, rare earth and marble. Meanwhile, several agricultural products are highly valued in the international market, such as saffron and dry fruits.

Abdullah appealed for more Chinese investment to Afghanistan, vowing "to create a better environment for investment from all countries, including from friendly neighboring countries, such as China."

Talking about the national peace process and national reconciliation, the chief executive pointed fingers at the Taliban group, saying Afghanistan is facing an imposed war, but the government is better prepared this year to defend the country. (Xinhua)

(7) London-Based ...

The protestors also chanted slogans of equality, justice and equal development for all.

Representatives from nearly 50 countries attended the Anti-Corruption Summit in the United Kingdom. (Tolnews)

(8) Education ...

"The number of private universities has really increased and we will start evaluation of their quality and also to create a system of reward and punishment," she said.

She said some private university maintained good equality education and this year, the private higher education institutes absorbed 50,000 Kankoor passed students.

Zabihullah Zamarai, Nangarhar provincial council secretary, said there were private universities in which students were passed and issued certificates without attending any class.

Zamarai said the government should resolve problems in construction of the township for Nangarhar university teachers, saying 60 acres of land belonging to the townships had been usurped and should be retaken.

Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi praised the higher education minister's efforts and asked her to pay more attention to the quality of education. "We hope there will be reforms to improve quality of higher education and current issues are resolved," he said. (Pajhwok)

(9) Govt. to ...

in Afghanistan and assess international financial and political support to Afghanistan.

Back in 2012, the international community reaffirmed their commitment to Afghanistan. But asked the Afghan government to take key steps to bolster good governance at national and sub national levels which are essential for strong and sustainable economic development in order to improve the livelihoods of the Afghans in general. Through the framework of the Tokyo conference, both the Afghan government and the international community reaffirmed their bilateral partnership in the economic growth and development of Afghanistan through a process of mutual accountability.

"We hope that NATO reaffirms another long term political commitment and extends their financial cooperation until 2020," Hakimi said.

NATO convenes the ministerial meeting at a critical moment where the Afghans are still facing numerous challenges on the political, economic and security spheres as Taliban remain intent on waging war and disrupting the nation's socioeconomic development. (Tolnews)

(10) Abdali Expects ...

In an interview with The Hindustan Times, he expressed the hope the agreement would be inked at the "highest level possible" in May but

not later than June.

Last month, representatives of the three countries initiated the text of the agreement on establishing a transit-transport corridor with Chabahar port at its heart.

Kabul recently warned of possible attacks on the Indian-funded Zaranj-Delaram highway, which is intended to serve as a link to Chabahar.

But the ambassador insisted Afghan security forces were ready to secure the 218 km two-lane highway from Delaram in Farah province to Zaranj in Nimroz.

Abdali said the agreement would enable Afghanistan and India to reach markets in Central Asia. "Afghanistan is going to witness major milestones in the months ahead," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(11) NDS and...

in such a situation caretakers are not willing to implement the programs properly and they are (caretakers) not working for the long term," said Sarwar Niyazi military analyst.

"I think caretaker is one of the serious challenges ahead of the national unity government and this is a serious test for the national unity government leaders that must come over," said Qasim Fitrat university lecturer. The Presidential Palace was not however willing to talk about it. (Tolnews)

(12) Afghans Annually ...

country. However, he said health centres were operational even in the most insecure areas of the country.

"Health centres are operational in all parts of Afghanistan even in areas where the rebels hold sway. However, the centres in insecure areas are deprived of quality health services," the minister said.

The public health minister said currently 65 percent of the countrymen had access to health facilities and the remaining had no access to those facilities, identifying the shortage of personnel and specialist doctors as the most serious problem facing the health sector.

The minister expressed concern that still \$300 million was spent abroad on treatment of Afghans each year and said his ministry was trying to control the issue by raising the quality and quantity of health services at civil hospital on zone level. (Pajhwok)

(13) Ghani's Speech ...

you are a traitor," said Bahduri. After hearing the protesting remarks from the Afghan participant, Ghani said: "I do not engage in patronage. In a few moments you are going to point to something I did not promise to you or anyone else."

The protester was removed by the president's guards from the gathering but the second protestor showed reaction to the guards' action.

"We are living in a democratic society in Britain and we enjoy living here," said Jafar Attai second protestor.

The president's guards also tried to remove him from the gathering but he resisted and a skirmish broke out. Eventually after both protestors had been removed the president resumed his speech.

The incident raised many reactions in Afghanistan as well.

"Beating a person even if he or she is a protester by the security officials where the president is delivering a speech is against principles of freedom and human rights and those who committed this action must be prosecuted," said Abdul Mujeeb Khilwatgar, NAI Director.

"It was an inappropriate action by the president's guards to beat an Afghan citizen," said a Kabul resident.

"In fact the president himself violated their freedom of speech and oppressed our citizens," another resident said. (Tolnews)

(14) Pakistan a ...

to exert more pressure on the Pakistan Army," the newspaper added. President Ashraf Ghani, who tried courting Pakistan for more than a year in the hopes that it would bring the Taliban to the negotiating table, is also getting tougher with Pakistani leaders. (Pajhwok)

(15) Afghanistan ...

the attack a war crime, the Pentagon Report proposed no criminal punishment for the military personnel involved, citing a lack of intent to commit a war crime. Instead, the 12 military personnel involved face administrative punishments and continue to hold their positions within the US military with no lasting ramifications.

The incident occurred on October 3, 2015, when a US attack gunship took several passes at the hospital, firing 211 shells at the compound over a period of 29 minutes before commanders finally realized their mistake and ordered the crew to cease firing. Doc-

tors Without Borders said that their staff reached NATO headquarters in Afghanistan minutes after the firing began, demanding an immediate ceasefire, but the heavily-armed aircraft continued firing for another 17 minutes.

The international human rights community has decried the lack of accountability in the strike, with many wondering whether civilians were intentionally compromised for the sake of eliminating a high-value target or if it truly was a mistake, as US officials claim.

The report raised the broader question of what the US hopes to accomplish by continuing to bomb Afghanistan fifteen years after America first invaded. Although the late terrorist Osama bin Laden took refuge in the country's southern mountains, a recent public opinion poll found that over 90% of the region's inhabitants have never heard of the World Trade Center or the Pentagon. (Sputnik)

(16) Gilani Thanks...

for our morale here in Pakistan. I believe that this is extremely good for our morale. But as far as our counter-terrorism policy is concerned, we have to look into that. Did this happen because of that? I do not know, but we do have to find out."

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani thanked American and Afghan forces on Wednesday for rescuing his son from Taliban captivity.

Ali Haider Gilani was rescued on Monday by a joint force of Afghan and U.S. commandos who raided a house occupied by al-Qaeda militants in Paktika province, just across the border from Pakistan. He was kidnapped three years ago from his home town.

"This combined operation was carried out by the American forces and the Afghanistan forces. My boy was recovered because of their combined efforts. I want to thank them because Ali Haider has been rescued after three years owing to their hard work," Gilani told reporters as he arrived in Lahore from Islamabad.

Gilani was accompanied by Bilawal Zardari Bhutto, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and son of slain Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Gilani, a stalwart of the PPP, was prime minister from 2008 to 2012. (Tolnews)

(17) Karzai to Visit ...

saying he would visit the country at a suitable time. Karzai hopes that the visit would lead to end in terrorism and violence in the region.

Political analysts believe that Pakistan PM has invited Hamid Karzai to ask him for help to ease political tensions between Islamabad and Kabul and also push forward the stalled peace process between Afghan government and Afghan Taliban. (IRNA)

(18) Suspected ...

was underway to determine if it was a deliberate act and if insurgents were involved.

According to the education department, 600 students are enrolled in the school. (Pajhwok)

(19) 1,400 Militants ...

According to the officials the Shafaq operation is being carried out to restore security in insecure parts of the country and currently large-scale operations are under way in more than 10 provinces across the country.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said that in addition to the elimination of 1,489 terrorists, 853 others were wounded and 119 were arrested.

"The enemies morale is now very weak and in 50 days we were able to eliminate many of them. Since 20 March 2016 to 11 May 2016 about 1,489 enemies were killed and a large number of others were either wounded or arrested," said MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi.

Meanwhile Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said: "Just today the enemy lost 140 fighters. We have 22 operations which are all planned and offensive operations. When we are planning obviously we take an offensive stance and enemies suffer a lot".

Meanwhile, there is concern among the public that the terrorists have moved their focus to the northern and northeastern provinces especially Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces. (Tolnews)

(20) Work Launched ...

and wouldn't let anyone make hurdles to teacher townships.

"In compliance with presidential order not only in Khost but in other provinces, authorised and capable delegations have been appointed to bring to an end the culture of land-grabbing across the country and especially to recover land of teacher townships."

Provincial education director Noor Bakhtyar told the gathering that the teacher township on 50 acres of land would be constructed in Shambohat locality of Mandozai district.

He said at least 225 senior teachers would be given residential plots in the township. The beneficiaries hailed from Mandozai, Nadar Shah Kot, Dwa Manda and Spera districts, he added. (Pajhwok)

(21) Misuse of ...

to be used by our soldiers and officers, but not for use of their families," local resident Jamaluddin Sediqqi said.

"They go to recreational points in government vehicles, this belongs to the nation, it is a treason and must stop," another resident Khawja Haseeb said.

Residents say that misuse of government assets are national treason.

"They use police rangers as bicycles and use them here and there," Kabul resident Ziauddin said.

"Police Rangers must not be used for personal use, because they belong to the people and must be used properly," Kabul resident Samim said. (Tolnews)

(22) Afghanistan and...

escalated between the two nations as additional forces were deployed in the area on Friday.

According to the sources in Pakistan, army troops and additional Khasadar Force and Frontier Corps personnel were deployed in Torkham on Thursday, accusing Afghanistan for reinforcing its troops and border security forces along the border.

The two sides reportedly deployed armored personnel carrier and tanks amid heightening tensions.

The closure of Torkham followed days after the Afghan and Pakistani border forces have already engaged in a number of clashes along the Durand Line, mainly due to military installations establishment, violating the zero point between the two countries.

The Afghan and Pakistani border forces exchanged fire in Goshta district of Nangarhar province late last month with the local officials saying the Pakistani forces started shelling the Afghan border posts. (KP)

(23) Tanks, Armoured...

told Pajhwok Afghan News.

The escalatory step was taken to counter Afghanistan's reinforcement of troops on the border, according to the source, who confirmed Kabul had formally protested to Pakistan in this regard.

On Thursday, officials from the two countries met at the Pakistani side of the border, but the negotiations ended inconclusively. Many travellers and traders remained stranded on both sides of the border.

Sector Commander Brig Qayyum Paracha, Khyber Rifles Commandant Col Tariq Hafeez and Assistant Political Agent Rahimullah Mehsud represented Pakistan while Afghan team included Border Police Commander Zabeehullah and Lt Col Nisar Ahmad.. (Pajhwok)

(24) Paktika Customs ...

and corruption in customs offices and it has also a positive impact on the revenue," said Malik, who called a lack of building for the customs department as big problem they faced. "We don't have own building for the customs department and the issue somehow delays our affairs."

He said precious stones, salt and other goods which had been seized while being smuggled to Pakistan were on the verge of extinction due to a lack of building.

He said he had requested security forces to close smuggling routes against vehicles.

The Paktika customs department had collected 200 million afghanis in revenue last year. (Pajhwok)

(25) Over 48,000...

of drivers resulted in traffic accidents. This comes just a week after a deadly accident on the Kabul-Kandahar highway left more than seventy dead after a bus and a fuel tanker crashed. (Tolnews)

(26) Sugar & Ghee ...

in some parts of the capital. A retailer in Dahnabagh area, Mohammad Haroon, sold a 24-kg sack of rice for 1,700afs and a 50-kg bag of flour for 1,300afs.

Similarly, he sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,150afs, a 16-kg tin of Momin ghee for 1,200afs, a kilo of black tea for 270afs and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 250afs.

Abdul Hadi, a fuel station worker in Kabul, said that the price of one litre of petrol edged down from 41afs to 39afs while the same quantity of diesel cost for 32afs -- the same price as last week's. (Pajhwok)

(27) 29 Militants...

early April after Taliban militants started their so-called annual spring offensive and step up attacks across the country.

The statement also confirmed the loss of three army personnel during clashes across the country over the same period.

The Taliban has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

(28) 15 Militants ...

provincial capital. Deputy police chief, Col. Mohammad ZamanAzimi, said the locals put up strong resistance and pushed back the attackers. One civilian was killed in the clash, which left three Taliban and two residents wounded. However, the militants have said nothing so far about the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(29) Armed Men ...

and hands," the victim said. Meanwhile, family members of the victim have asked the government to arrest the criminals and bring them to justice.

"I ask the president of Afghanistan to provide us justice," the victim's husband said.

Baghlan police have pledged to expand operations and arrest the criminals. (Tolnews)

(30) Rain-Fed ...

to the farmers.

Aga Khan Foundation official Nasrullah said: "We have brought to Takhar the experience of potato cultivation in deserts from China. Our initiative has been a success."

"After being sown, potato plants are covered with plastic. The rainwater collecting in canals is absorbed by deserts. This keeps farms wet and the vapor thus caused drops back on soil and obviates the need for irrigation. (Pajhwok)

(31) Militant ...

officials, the IED expert and three militants were busy in making an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) when the explosion took place.

The Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other insurgent groups are frequently using Improvised Explosive Device (IED) as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces.

The IEDs are the main contributors to the casualties of the Afghan security forces but are also considered as a key factor in growing civilian casualties. (KP)

(32) UN Expert...

rights of those who live and work near the projects," he emphasized.

"Safeguards are necessary, not only to protect human rights, but also to avoid abuses that can derail projects and harm the very people the projects are supposed to help," he concluded. (Xinhua)

(33) Ex-PM ...

said. "This is their trump card. I urge them to take care, this is dangerous territory that -- if handled carelessly -- can open up long-term divisions in our society."

Britain's prime minister from 1990 to 1997, Major was due to speak to Oxford University students later Friday. (AFP)

(34) EU Anti-Smug...

number of migrants using it. Austrian Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka and Italian counterpart Angelino Alfano announced the decision Friday after meeting at the Brenner border point separating their countries. (AP)

(35) Obama Hosts ...

he flow of refugees in Europe and contributions to the campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The White House is casting the rare multilateral summit as something of a diplomatic walk in the park compared to recent, more contentious sit-downs in the Middle East, or even Europe. Where Obama often is tasked with nudging reluctant partners to contribute more to international partnerships, the Nordic leaders, he said, are willing partners and ready to "punch above their weight. (AP)

(36) Some 1,000 ...

2015. Standing at more than double last year's entries into Europe, latest migration figures reveal that the fatality rate has significantly decreased. (Xinhua)

(37) Brazil Interim ...

have much time," Temer, a veteran of the center-right PMDB party, said on taking office.

"We must rebuild the foundations of the Brazilian economy and significantly improve the business environment for the private sector so it can get back to its natural role of investing, producing and creating jobs. (AFP)