

(1) Need for Closer ...

in Islamic countries and all countries of the world to continue any more than today," he said.

He said terrorism was being defeated in many countries of the world, especially in Islamic countries and pledged to fight terrorism until it disappears completely from the surface of the earth.

Afghanistan is a victim of terrorism and a frontline country in fight against extremist organizations.

Thousands of Afghans being killed or injured monthly at the hands of terrorists organizations. The Afghan government is, however, committed to eradicate terrorism and often sought the support of international community and regional country.

What is the IMCTC

The Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) is a willing coalition of 41 countries that forms a Pan-Islamic unified front in the global fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Strategic Vision

Allow member countries of this strategic Coalition, with the support of peace-loving friendly nations and international organizations, to coordinate and unite their efforts in the ideology, communications, counter terrorist financing, and military domains, in order to fight all forms of terrorism and extremism and to effectively join other international security and peacekeeping efforts

IMCTC Objectives:

- Strengthen the contribution of Islamic countries towards global security and peace, complementing international Counter-Terrorism efforts
- Reinforce solidarity and collaboration among coalition member countries to present a unified front against terrorist organizations and their attempts to destabilize security and distort the image of Islam and Muslims
- Counter radical ideology in Coalition member countries through strategic communication campaigns to refute the radical and extremist narrative and propaganda
- Reaffirm the moderate values of Islam and its principles of peace, tolerance and compassion
- Combat terrorism financing in collaboration with member countries and international CTF authorities, to promote compliance with international agreements and advance legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks
- Establish strategic partnerships between member countries, supporting nations and international organizations to share counter terrorism information and expertise. (Pajhwok)

(2) 'Indo-Afghan ...

Indo-Afghan cultural relations in four historical periods — the Aryans, Afghan kings, colonialism and post-independence," he said. Messages from the presidents of both countries would be read out at the event's opening ceremony.

Information and culture ministers from Afghanistan and India, ambassadors, diplomats and culturists were expected to attend the event.

The second day would feature artistic boards, handicrafts and cultural local dresses from both countries as well as a joint Qawwali music program at the end of the day.

The third day is dedicated to a joint orchestra program that would be organized by Ustad Salim Sarmast from Afghanistan side, he said. The day four is dedicated to university students of both countries. They would provide presentations, discussions and perform Atan (Afghanistan local dance) and India local dance.

The same day, a joint book exhibition would be also held as part of the program, according to Alamzai.

The event would be also attended by writers, journalists from different media outlets, musicians, designers and painters. (Pajhwok)

(3) Senate Rejects ...

commission of Meshrano Jirga, presented information about the Wolesi Jirga decision and said, "The government budget would face more deficiency if the 10 percent telecom tax is cancelled."

He said officials of the ministries of telecommunication and information technology and the finance had promised to activate a transparent system for collection of the 10 percent tax.

A number of other senators supported collection of the 10 percent telecom tax but asked the government to activate a transparent system in this regard.

The Meshrano Jirga members finally rejected the Wolesi Jirga's decision.

Senate chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar announced a six-month deadline for the government to activate a transparent mobile phone tax collection system.

He asked the Ministry of Telecommunication

and Information Technology to press telecom companies to register all unregistered SIM cards and reduce rates for domestic phone calls.

According to the Article 100 of the Constitution, if a decision of one house of the parliament is rejected by another, a joint commission comprised of members from both houses would then discuss and decide controversial issues.

"If the joint commission does not solve the difference, the decision shall be considered rejected. In such situation, the Wolesi Jirga shall pass it with two-thirds majority in its next session.

This decision, without submission to the Meshrano Jirga, shall be promulgated once endorsement by the President," the article says. (Pajhwok)

(4) Over Afs 100m...

away with about 100 million Afs a year.

Officials from the department have confirmed the problem but said they recently arrested a woman who was involved in the scam.

"We did not surrender to the pressure, we did not manage to identify all those who had gotten the money, but fortunately we succeeded to identify some circles," said Qayoum Afghan, the head of Herat Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled department.

In addition, Herat Attorney General's Office has said that syndicates that have forged the ID cards have stolen millions of Afs.

"A number of employees of the Herat Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (department) have been arrested - where these cards are processed; five individuals were arrested and some others are also under investigation who are allegedly involved in it," said Azizullah Hejran, head of Herat anti-corruption court.

According to reports, hundreds of families in the province have been getting the money through these fake cards.

"We are ready to ask for justice from the anti-corruption committee and civil society institutions so that the culprits behind the case are brought to justice," said Abdul Qudos Yasin-zada, a member of Herat's anti-corruption committee.

Herat Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled department officials said so far this year the concerned department has saved 140 million Afs after identifying some people involved in the scam. (Tolonews)

(5) Zarif, Mohaqiq ...

create unity among Muslims, as well as to introduce the school of Ahl al-Bayt and the methods to fight Takfirism, which is the dark ideology of ISIL terrorists and is mostly rooted in Wahhabism.

Speaking at the summit, Mohaqiq pointed to the defeat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria and said ISIL has expanded its bases in Afghanistan, and if this malignant tumor is distributed in Afghanistan, it would lead to the instability of the whole Central Asia. "The countries of the world must work on the complete destruction of ISIL," he noted.

According to him, if Muslims, who make up one quarter of the world's population, are united, no one can take a decision without Muslim's permission, and global Arrogance cannot sow discord among them. (MNA)

(6) ADB to Provide ...

is rapidly growing in all over Afghanistan and insufficient energy supplies severely constrain economic development and income opportunities in this country," said Samuel Tumiwa, ADB Country Director for Afghanistan. "The new on-grid solar power generation project, which is the largest of its kind in Afghanistan, will not only provide access to a clean and reliable power supply in Afghanistan, but also create an environment for the future investments in this area through public-private partnerships."

Afghanistan's renewable energy resource potential is estimated to be over 300,000 MW, consisting of solar (222,849 MW), wind (66,726 MW), hydro (23,310 MW), and biomass (4,000 MW).

Although significant progress has been made since 2002 to meet its domestic demand, Afghanistan has to largely rely on importing energy from the neighboring countries.

Presently, only about 32% of the population has access to grid-connected electricity and the electricity demand in major load centers is growing by 25% annually. Reliance on energy imports, lack of sufficient power generation capacity, a small domestic market, and financial weaknesses renders Afghanistan's energy security largely vulnerable.

The project will finance the construction of a 20 MW on-grid solar photovoltaic plant in Naghlu, located in the Surobi district of Kabul province. The project will partially but quickly fill the demand-supply gap, and improve the sustainability of the northeast grid covering the capital Kabul and Jalalabad province.

In addition to this, the project will provide power transformer and support facilities, upgrade the capacity of the existing sub-stations, and operation and maintenance (O&M) services for 3 years. The project will also prepare the site and the sub-station to accommodate additional PV plant of 10 MW for the future financing. The project also has the possibility of future expansion to 30 or 40 MW depending on the availability of additional financing from other development partners or the private sector.

Capacity building support will be also provided for the staff of Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), and government-owned energy utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) on solar photovoltaic plant design, technical evaluation, grid integration, and operation and maintenance. The project will be in line with the National Energy Supply Program and the Afghanistan Renewable Energy Policy of the Government of Afghanistan.

The project will generate at least 65430 megawatt-hours of solar power and prevent at least 13,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents in the first full year of operation.

ADB is Afghanistan's largest on-budget development partner in the energy sector and has helped delivering electricity to more than 5 million people in Afghanistan.

ADB will support in increasing the country's electrification rate from current 30% to 83%, and in lifting the share of domestic power generation from 20% to 67% by 2030. ADB will also play a major role in power transmission both regionally and domestically, and in promoting clean energy, including through solar power.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB is celebrating 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 of which are from the region. In 2016, ADB assistance totaled \$31.7 billion, including \$14 billion in co-financing.

It is noteworthy which details of this contract shared with the media by the Ministry of Finance, Asian Development Bank and the Breshna Company. (Pajhwok)

(7) Rights Activists ...

campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

On Saturday, Tadamiichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said: "Violence against women in Afghanistan must immediately stop."

"For Afghan women to achieve their full potential and their immense capacity in development, in peace and in security, the violations of the rights of women and girls, particularly through violence, must cease."

One in every three women around the world has experienced physical or sexual violence.

Gender-based violence is a global issue, affecting millions each year, particularly the most vulnerable, including Afghan women and girls. It is now widely recognized that violence against women, including harassment and harmful practices, is major barrier to women and girls enjoying their fundamental human rights, and is a direct challenge to women's inclusion and participation in sustaining peace.

"Violence against women and girls is not inevitable," said Rebecca Tavares, Country Representative ad interim for the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). "There are many ways to prevent violence in the first place, and to stop its recurrence."

The UN mission in Afghanistan stressed that alongside the effective legal and institutional mechanisms for access to justice, stopping violence against women requires an effort from everyone, from every individual, to speak out against violence in homes, workplaces and social settings.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, marked every year by the United Nations on 25 November, represents that start of the global campaign on 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This year's 16 Days theme, 'Leave No One Behind,' reflects the importance of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which commits to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres. (Tolonews)

(8) Draft Five-Year...

Afghanistan National Trade Policy with the help of the EU and the International Trade Center and has consulted with the private sector and donor institutions.

The president's adviser said the creation and implementation of a clear Afghan trade policy is essential for improving business with neighboring countries.

"Some of Afghanistan's neighbors, which are WTO members, have not yet adjusted their trade and transit policies that Afghanistan is entitled to," he said.

The Afghan National Trade Policy aims to increase domestic production and increase the country's exports.

The policy will comprise of six sections that detail domestic and foreign trade issues, map out ways to improve the status of investment, and take into consideration the opportunities available as a World Trade Organization member.

"The national trade policy and national export strategy will function as blueprints for government and the private sector in their joint efforts to help Afghan businesses and enhance competitiveness; I look forward to a fruitful discussion," said Rajesh Aggarwal, International Trade Center Chief: Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business. (Tolonews)

(9) End to Violence on...

empowering women and the government was trying to further support women.

Provincial governors have been directed to take violence against women serious and provide job opportunities to women as well as support them, he said.

"Providing job opportunities to women is essential in all government departments, particularly in security organs," Abdullah said. Families should let their daughters and sisters work in security forces but women should be first provided with proper job opportunities, he said.

Pointing to achievements over the past 16 years, the CEO said Afghanistan was once ruled by a regime that termed violence against women as an achievement.

"The current situation is not comparable with the situation 16 years ago, but current violence against women is also not acceptable", he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Most of Drug ...

where 21 drug addicted women were being treated.

At the men's centre 51 drug addicted men are under treatment. "Every patient is discharged after 45-day of treatment", he added.

Kazemi said up to now 3,000 drug addicted women and 8,000 addicted men had been discharged and handed over to their families after treatment.

In addition, Haji Nazir, a local businessman, has set up a facility for rehabilitation of drug addicts at his own expenses in Zaranj. So far up to 500 drug addicts have been treated at the facility.

Haji Nazir told Pajhwok Afghan News he established the rehabilitation facility to protect the youth who were the asset of the country. He said the youth should be looked after at any cost.

Majid, one of the drug addicts, who has a family of wife and four children, said he went to Iran for work where he addicted to drug. (Pajhwok)

(11) Spanta Accuses...

elite and elders should agree to it," said Spanta.

"If we are not weak, then a weak and treacherous government will not be able to govern us," said Abdul Sattar Murad, head of political committee of Jamiat-e-Islami party.

A number of delegates meanwhile accused certain individuals of provoking ethnic division in order to take power.

According to them, some politicians misuse their influence among the tribes in order to gain power and that this is resulting in a deterioration in security and an increase in poverty.

"The current situation is because of activities by these politicians who misuse their influence and provoke a crisis and ethnic wars for their own interests," MP Abdul Qayyum Sajjadi said.

"The situation is very very bad and if a solution is not found, it will get worse," Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, Taliban's former ambassador to Islamabad said.

Some delegates meanwhile accused the NUG of deceiving the people and said government has failed to hold a constitutional Loya Jirgaas pledged in terms of bringing electoral reforms. (Tolonews)

(12) Bamyan's Chahl ...

and Cultural Affairs had conducted initial investigation to further explore the Chehal Burja site, but no steps followed. "No specific budget has been provided to our department for this purpose."

He said a military ground was situated near the fort on a three acres of land. The ground might be used for sports, training, official events and others, he said.

The Chehl Burja is located 120 metres above the nearest river and a huge well is situated inside the fort. The well has stairs but mud has accumulated in the well bed with the passage

of time.

On the towers drawings of human statues and snakes could be seen. According to the cultural ministry officials and experts the drawings showed the fort belonged to pre-Islamic period. (Pajhwok)

(13) US Asks Pakistan ...

Washington had urged Pakistan to re-arrest Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leader Hafiz Saeed and charge him with the crimes he was accused of committing.

Saeed was released before dawn on Friday after a three-judge panel in Lahore High Court ended his detention in Lahore. Saeed's spokesman Yahya Mujahid called it a "victory of truth." (Pajhwok)

(14) Iran's IKIU to...

is going to sign an MoU with the Polish Jagiellonian University and the Malaysian University of Malaya in the near future.

Besides 600 non-Iranian students learning the Persian language at IKIU, currently 500 foreign students are studying in various majors at the Iranian university. (IRNA)

(15) 3rd Indian Wheat..

wheat will be carried to Afghanistan by 5,000 trucks, which will create jobs in Sistan va Baluchestan Province of Iran and Milak in Afghanistan. (IRNA)

(16) Mohaqiq Remarks ...

of the founders of Fatimiyun Brigade in Syria and he has encouraged Afghan refugees in Iran to take part in Syrian war.

"I thank all the warriors who cooperated in these wars from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other parts of the world, who attended the wars. In fact it was the war of Islam against infidelity and against the conspiracies of the world arrogance," Mohaqiq had said.

However, senators during Sunday's session criticized the deputy CEO for his statements. Senator Mohammad Hanif Hanafi said Mohaqiq's statements were against the national interests and Afghan politicians should not encourage their people into fighting in others' wars.

He said the remarks could produce bad consequences and the Afghans should not be dragged into foreign wars. (Pajhwok)

(17) Paktika District ...

after it was destroyed in a suicide bombing several years ago.

The Taliban apparently dominate several areas of Sar Rozah and all its government officials are now based about 20 kilometers away in Sharna city, the Paktika provincial capital.

"All the (residents) incidents that occur in the mountainous regions are not shared with us, because the enemy is operating from bases there, so all issues are resolved there and are not shared with us," said Sar Rozah district governor Musa Jan Kharoti. (Tolonews)

(18) Tagab Mayor...

directly sent to prison.

A resident of Tagab district, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok that the mayor also sold the lands allotted for teachers, and added that there was no land left in the vicinity of the district centre even to establish a government department.

He also alleged that the detained mayor recently bought a house worth \$150,000 in Saleem Carvan area of Kabul province. (Pajhwok)

(19) US Airstrike ...

five associates killed."

Meanwhile, a member of provincial council Abdul Wali Wakil confirmed the air raid and militants' casualties.

There has been so far no word from Taliban in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(20) Paktikans Unhappy ...

Sharana, the provincial capital, to withdraw their salaries, but many return empty-handed. An ANA soldier, Samiullah (not his real name) told Pajhwok Afghan News he had been unable to get his salary in five days.

"My duty is in Barmal district that borders Pakistan, and the route to our area is insecure. It is my fifth day coming here to obtain my wage and send it to my family."

Similarly, Katawazai, a policeman, said due to a rush on the bank, he had been unable to withdraw his salaries in the past few days. (Pajhwok)

(21) Afghanistan Takes...

Afghanistan needs only 10 points to win the trophy.

Eight countries have taken part in the contest which kicked off in 2015. The countries are Afghanistan, Ireland, Netherlands, UAE, Scotland, Hong Kong, Namibia and Papua New Guinea.

Immediately after the ICC match against UAE, Afghanistan will face Ireland in three One Day International (ODI) matches - also at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. (Tolonews)