

(1) Khalilzad, Pakistani...

process and called peace in Afghanistan valuable for the whole region, the source said. Qureshi stressed to continue his country's support for peace in Afghanistan.

Before traveling to Pakistan, Khalilzad in Kabul said, "If Pakistan wants good relations with the US then it should change its policy towards Afghanistan and stop interference in this country." He said that they supported a deal between Afghanistan and Pakistan also signed regarding peace. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghanistan...

framework of a protocol. An inclusive protocol has been prepared and this regulates our economic and commercial cooperation," said Mastoor. The two countries also signed agreements on culture and military. Representatives of the private sector said there is a need for more efforts by the Afghan government to enhance the country's economic and trade relations with Belarus.

"The agreement will benefit the interests of Afghanistan. It is expected that banking transaction will also be part of the agreement because we have problems in our banking transactions with the world," said Mohammad Yunus Mohmand, member of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Statistics of the Ministry of Economy show that the value of Afghanistan's trade with Belarus is more than \$40 million a year, with the main part of the amount making the imports from Belarus to Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(3) Flash Floods...

been destroyed and 2,841 houses have been partially damaged by flooding in the southern provinces including Kandahar city.

According to the report, 1,092 families have been verified as requiring humanitarian assistance as a result of the flooding that began on 2 March 12, 2019, in four districts of Helmand province, including Nahr-e-Saraj, Nawa-e-Barakzai, Lashkragah, and Nad Ali.

In western Farah province, the report said, 3,205 households have been identified as affected by the floods and requiring humanitarian assistance. Of these households, the report says, 1,601 homes have been destroyed and 1,604 have been partially damaged. (Tolo news)

(4) US Ensure NATO Efforts...

at hand. And now it's our duty to adapt to the challenges like radical Islamic terrorism, cyber attacks, uncontrolled migration, Chinese strategic competition, and indeed, still, Russian aggression," Pompeo added. (Pajhwok)

(5) Practical Work...

within 24 to 30 months. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan are responsible for coordinating their activities regarding the project so work on the plan not faces any problems, he said.

He said that 562 kilometer of total 720 kilometers power cable of the project was passing through six provinces of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghanistan...

of Civil Aviation (GACA) Nabil Al-Amoudi expressed his gratitude to the king for his support of the aviation sector.

The Afghan officials besides attending the summit also met with Nabil Al-Amoudi and discussed with him important matters of mutual interest.

The statement said the Afghanistan transport minister Yama Yari thanked the kingdom for its support with Afghanistan in various fields.

It said both the sides discussed increased bilateral cooperation, improving civil aviation services, more facilities for transfer and return of Afghan pilgrims and expansion of Afghanistan's air corridors. (Pajhwok)

(7) 1,700 Square...

marking 'International Landmine Awareness Day,' here said that 3,100 square kilometers of the country's soil had been cleared of landmines and more than 19 million landmines defused.

He said government's inattention to increasing landmines clearance budget and negligence of the international community in this regard had troubled the clearing process.

He asked the national unity government leaders to allocate an amount

of money from domestic sources for launching the landmine clearing process so donor countries would also find an interest to support the drive.

Fahim said, "Foreign forces who planted explosives around their bases also left without removing the devices."

The slogan "Afghanistan would be free of landmines until 2023" would not turn into a reality if the government and donor countries did not pay attention to the issue, he added.

Toby Lanzer, UN Secretary-General deputy special representative in Afghanistan, talking about the UN support to landmine clearance campaign in Afghanistan, said they were making all efforts to make Afghanistan free of landmines.

Based on the new law, clearing landmines are the responsibility of the warring sides and they should remove landmines and no longer use them in future for the protection of Afghanistan citizens, he said.

Jim De Hart, assistant US envoy to Afghanistan, said Afghanistan was the country which had the highest number of buried landmines. "Exploding landmines affects the society, economy and security of a country besides causing human losses," he said.

"We have supported the landmines clearing process besides other cooperation to Afghanistan over the last 17 years, we will also encourage donors in future to help make Afghanistan landmines-free," he said.

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), pointing to more than 100 casualties caused by landmines every month, said the high rate of landmine casualties showed the harshness of war in Afghanistan.

"Contamination of 1,700 square kilometers of the country's soil with landmines is one of our great challenges, we must and definitely would use internal resources for dealing with this issue," he said.

Abdullah said security officials would be ordered to clear landmines and explosive devices in their areas. (Pajhwok)

(8) Peace Jirga ...

Zia-ul-Haq Amarkhail, deputy head of the organizing committee, said delegates from 23 sections of the society, including political parties, civil society organizations, tribal elders and members of the National Assembly will be invited to the Jirga through a semi-selective process from the 34 provinces of the country.

"Government officials will attend the Jirga as guests on the first day and also will attend as guests on the final day," he said. "Members of government do not have the membership of the Jirga. Provincial governors, mayors, and districts governors will not be invited to the Jirga. It is only the people who will make the decision." Lawmakers said the \$5 million is a huge amount and that the delegates should be from all layers of society and represent all the people of Afghanistan. "The 370 million is a huge amount of money. There is no transparency and it is possible that elections campaigns might happen at the Jirga," said Ahmad Jawed Rauf, head of international relations commission of Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of Parliament. "When government spends such a huge amount of money and invites the people and ask their views, I hope that the government leaders should respect the consultations which will be made in the Jirga," said Erfanullah Erfan, a former MP. Some residents and civil society members from different provinces called on government to secure transparency in spending this huge amount of money and also secure justice in inviting the delegates from around the country. (Tolo News)

(9) Asghar Afghan...

The ACB has appointed Gulbuddin Naib as ODI captain, googly master Rashid Khan as T20 captain and Rahmat Shah as Test captain.

Asghar, 31, is a right-handed batsman and a medium-fast bowler.

Under his captaincy, Afghanistan got the full membership of the International Cricket Council.

Afghan made his T20 International debut against Ireland in the 2010 Quadrangular Twenty20 Series in Sri Lanka. Later on, in 2010, he played a single match in Afghanistan's victorious 2010 ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier, playing in the final against Ireland. Afghan was later named in Afghanistan's squad for the

On April 2010, Afghan was a key member of Afghanistan's 2010 ACC Trophy Elite winning squad which defeated

Nepal in the final.

Afghan ended the tournament as the third leading run scorer with 253 runs, including a score of 151 runs from 83 balls against Bhutan.

On March 1, 2014, Afghan's 90* helped Afghanistan to register their win over Bangladesh which was their first win against test playing nations.

He and Samiullah Shinwari put on a 164 runs partnership for the sixth wicket which is the fifth highest Partnership for the sixth wicket in the history of ODIs and the third highest ODI Partnership for Afghanistan.

In 2018, he was named in Kandahar's squad in the first edition of the Premier League of Cricket in Afghanistan.

He was the highest run-scorer for the Kandahar Knights in the tournament, with 264 runs in eight matches. (Tolo news)

(10) Afghan Peace...

with the Taliban in Qatar. We hope for representation of the Afghan government in this meeting," he said.

Referring to peace negotiations between the U.S. and Taliban, he said the Afghan nation was not informed in a transparent manner and there were many questions to be answered.

Mohammad Yusuf Saha, a spokesman for former President Hamid Karzai, said the peace talks in Qatar on April 14-15 would be attended by a "powerful" delegation comprising politicians and civil society representatives.

It is not yet known whether the Afghan government will attend the talks in Qatar where U.S. officials and Taliban representatives will gather.

The Afghan government is increasingly feeling sidelined as the Taliban are not willing to talk with Kabul, resulting in a stalemate.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special envoy for peace in Afghanistan, is meeting Afghan officials as part of his tour to the region.

Khalilzad has met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, a woman peace negotiation delegation and tribal leaders in southern Afghanistan.

The visiting top U.S. peace envoy on Tuesday acknowledged the importance of taking Afghan government on board in the peace process.

The Taliban still dominates many parts of Afghanistan, posing a great threat to the government led by Ghani and this situation leads to a serious security challenge in the country.

Despite the government's efforts to start peace talks with the Taliban in recent years and establishing the Peace Council, no concrete result has been achieved yet. (AA)

(11) Khalilzad is...

"We also discussed the efforts of the United States to seek a political settlement in Afghanistan" Stoltenberg said. He said that US envoy for the Afghan peace process, Zalmay Khalilzad held consultations with NATO allies last week on progress in negotiations with the Taliban and the issue would be kept coordinated with the alliance.

"We went in to Afghanistan together, and we agree that we will take any decisions on our future presence together" he said.

"We also discussed our enormous progress in the fight against ISIS. Millions have been freed from oppression and ISIS has lost all of the territory it once controlled. NATO is committed to working with partners in the region, like Iraq, to ensure that ISIS can never return. Training local forces is one of the best weapons we have in the fight against terrorism," he added.

In response to a question whether all NATO forces withdraw from Afghanistan if there was a leave plan considering to Stoltenberg's previous statements on 'in together, out together' he said, "Khalilzad has stated many times that what he is negotiating is not at a leave agreement but a peace agreement."

He added the overall aim of the ongoing negotiations was to reach a political agreement that could make it possible to have peace in Afghanistan for the first time in many years.

In response to a question whether the gains made over the last 18 years would be damaged as result of political deal with the Taliban, he said, "But as we have all stated many, many times, also, of course, in the consultations with Ambassador Khalilzad, is that we need to make sure that any peace deal ensures that Afghanistan never again

becomes a safe haven for international terrorists"

"...and has also to build on the achievements we have made, not least in promoting the rights of women and girls related to education, basic human rights," "A part of any sustainable peace in Afghanistan has also to include Afghan reconciliation. So, the talks which are going on now is, in a way, the first step towards a broader peace process which also include, of course, the Afghan government because that's the only way to have a sustainable peace," Stoltenberg said.

He added that the presence of international forces in Afghanistan was part of the ongoing negotiations.

"So what kind of presence under what kind of framework? Well, that remains to be decided. That will be part of the agreement. In NATO we are now looking into different options for how NATO can support a potential peace agreement. But it's far too early to conclude," he said.

The main issues now is to provide as much support as possible to the ongoing talks and then, based on that, we will make decisions on our future presence and in what form NATO Allies will or will not be part of any future international presence, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Storms...

Badghis last month, and at one point 50 members of Afghan security forces surrendered to the Taliban.

Fighting between militant groups has also intensified. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement on Thursday that Islamic State attacks on Taliban positions on March 23 resulted in 21,000 people being displaced in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.

The latest round of peace talks between U.S. and Taliban officials wrapped up last month, with both sides citing progress.

Meanwhile, severe flooding hit Badghis province on Thursday, killing an unknown number of people and sweeping away houses, farmland and schools, aid organization World Vision said.

The floods took Afghans by surprise, coming about a week after previous floods, and were triggered by only moderate rains, the organization said in a statement.

The country has little infrastructure, such as ditches and sewers, to manage water run-off.

World Vision added that it does not yet have an estimate of the number of people affected. (Reuters)

(13) Women in Remote...

"There are almost zero healthcare facilities in remote areas of Baghlan which puts the health of thousands of women at risk during child delivery or other health problems," she said.

Noori said 45 percent of women lost their lives in delivery due to absence of health facilities in their areas.

On the other hand, she said, "Hundreds of women are addicted to drugs in Baghlan but there is no special rehabilitation center for them and as a result, the number of addicted women is increasing."

Zuhail Saifi, a resident of Khost district of Baghlan, said there were only two female maternity professionals on the provincial level performing duty in Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital.

"There is no female doctor in Khost district, it is a great problem for local people," she said. Saifi said many women had lost their lives during child birth in the district.

Nadera, a resident of Nahrain district, said women in their area should be shown mercy. "The maternity section at the Pul-i-Khumri Civil Hospital is a small room where four women are simultaneously handled for delivery which is very dangerous," she said.

She said she lost one of her relatives during labor due to negligence of midwives three months ago.

Nadera criticized the Baghlan health sector and said there was no blood bank in the civil hospital for women after delivery, besides many other problems.

Meanwhile, a midwife at the Pul-i-Khumri Civil Hospital, Aziza Mohammadi, acknowledged some problems in the hospital but said female professionals were trying to deal with all patients on time.

"The number of patients is much higher compared to the beds available in the hospital, responding to all patients is impossible particularly at the maternity ward which receives patients from the provincial capital and a number of districts," she said.

She acknowledged six women were admitted to the maternity ward at the same time but said they had no other option. The problems would not solve until a complete building for the hospital was built, Mohammadi said.

Abdul Halim Ghafari, Baghlan public health deputy director, told Pajhwok that 88 healthcare facilities were operational on the provincial level.

"Some of our health centers have maternity wards but others don't have them because we do not have enough female professionals and advanced equipment," he said.

He said work on the building of a new hospital in Pul-i-Khumri was underway and it would resolve patients' problems once completed.

Besides Baghlan, a number of other provinces also have no healthcare facilities for women, which have created problems for local people. (Pajhwok)

(14) China's BYD...

as they watch this world-class company continue to literally change the world for the better," said the mayor.

Since the delivery of its first U.S. battery electric bus in 2014, BYD has provided buses for customers in 13 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces.

Shi Yuanqiang, deputy Chinese consul general in Los Angeles, said "this actually is an example of how the two sides can work together to contribute to the common cause of better, green development."

"BYD is a perfect combination of technology, engineering and innovation of China and the United States, which yields mutual benefits and win-win results," Shi said.

When BYD opened its Lancaster manufacturing plant in 2013, it had a handful of employees working on 10 buses in a 106,000-square-foot (9,848-square-meter) building that once housed a motorhome manufacturing facility, according to the company. (Xinhua)

(15) With Brexit...

They duly did. Within months, it had spelled the end of Anthony Eden's premiership in Britain. More importantly, it crystallized the moment when Britain realized that its great power status had come to an end.

PROFUMO SEX SCANDAL

Eden's successor, Harold Macmillan, wasn't the type to get entangled in imperial misadventures. He hastened Britain's decolonization and focused on Europe. However, his premiership was cut short when his Secretary of State for War John Profumo was implicated in a sex-and-spy scandal with showgirl Christine Keeler, who was also having a liaison with a Russian naval attaché at the same time.

The scandal, which came at the height of the Cold War, shattered the reputation of Macmillan's government and the prime minister quit in 1963. A year later, the Conservative Party lost power for the first time in 13 years.

3-DAY WEEK

After surprisingly winning the 1970 election, Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath sought to tackle the government's increasing reliance on trade unions. However, his premiership was soon overwhelmed by mounting sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, including the "Bloody Sunday" killing of 13 people at a civil rights march in Londonderry in January 1972.

His premiership was cut short two years later when the powerful coal miners went on an overtime ban that wreaked havoc.

In December 1973, following the Yom Kippur War between Israel and Arab nations that saw the OPEC oil cartel quadruple oil prices, Heath declared a state of emergency as the country couldn't meet its energy needs. Heath imposed a three-day working week and speed restrictions. Professional soccer on Sunday, banned in the country for decades, also became a feature for the first time because there wasn't enough energy to power all the floodlights required on the traditional schedule on Saturdays.

Amid all the chaos, Heath called an early election for February 1974, and asked "Who governs Britain?" Too many said "not you obviously" and Labour returned to power. (Fox News)