

(1) World Should...

not take urgent steps, the security situation would turn from bad to worst. Ibrahim also said he was concerned about the country's security situation and said the Afghan government had not signed bilateral security agreements with the US and NATO for luxury, but based on the country's needs.

Therefore, he said, the international community should think about Afghanistan's current security situation and honestly support the Afghans in the fight against its enemies. (Pajhwok)

(2) 1,700 Afghans....

repatriation of the Afghan asylum seekers.

This comes as the Embassy of Afghanistan in Berlin, the number of Afghan migrants seeking voluntary repatriation has increased recently.

According to the earlier reports by the Embassy of Afghanistan, up to one thousand Afghan migrants have applied for voluntary return to Afghanistan from Germany.

This comes as a group of 125 Afghan citizens arrived to Afghanistan from Germany late in the month of February with the support of the Afghan and German governments.

According to the officials, the majority of the applicants applying for voluntary repatriation are between 15 to 25 years of age and majority of them are keen to return to Afghanistan since they find living in Germany in contrast to their expectations and what they had heard before travelling to Germany. (KP)

(3) Herat to ...

experiences and further development of trade relations between the two countries would be discussed.

TAPI is a major economic project for gas supply from Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan. It was formally launched last year. (Pajhwok)

(4) \$20m worth ...

deep water wells, construction of three water reservoirs, rehabilitation of 140 water wells, 100 toilets in schools, establishing specific places for waste and water storages for hand washing for schoolchildren.

Funds for the projects, including five executed in Herat province, had been provided by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan Forces ...

NSC are issued amid deteriorating security situation across the country as the Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant.

There are concerns that the Taliban militants will pursue violence during the summer despite efforts by the Afghan government to end the violence through reconciliation process.

The acting Afghan intelligence Chief Massoud Andarabi earlier warned that the Taliban will not renounce violence and will continue to their insurgency with the full support of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence. (KP)

(6) President Ghani ...

inaugurated in Dushanbe on May 12. High-ranking officials from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan will attend the event.

Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev and Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif would also fly into Dushanbe next month to attend the ceremony, the news agency said.

An important step toward realising the proposed Central Asia-South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASAREM), the CASA-1000 project will address the energy problem and boost regional cooperation. (Pajhwok)

(7) Korea Pledges...

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi, late on Tuesday, the ambassador promised the Korean government would not leave the war-torn country alone. Ki Hoon lauded the improved security situation in the province, offering help to the Nangarhar government in various sectors.

Kunduzi urged the envoy to provide assistance for the development of agriculture and other sectors. Provincial officials briefed the ambassador on the requirements of their respective departments. (Pajhwok)

(8) Faizullah Zaki ...

Islamic Afghanistan party, is due to be officially introduced to a ceremony slated for Wednesday, the source told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Zaki, who will serve under National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, campaigned for President Ashraf Ghani during the 2014 presidential election. (Pajhwok)

(9) US is Censoring ...

bombed the Kunduz hospital in October, breaking the rules of war regarding hospitals. "The full report and the full findings haven't been made public, and the reason we've

been given for that is that it's been going through a redaction process, which means that it's being sanitized for public consumption," Witthall told Radio Sputnik.

In this photograph taken on November 10, 2015, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) staff walk in the damaged Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) hospital in northern Kunduz.

US military servicemen responsible for bombing the hospital and shooting its patients from an AC-130 have been given minor reprimands or temporarily suspended from duty, while no generals were punished. The US military, like those of other countries, considers it the duty of soldiers and officers to not carry out illegal orders. No Compensation

The United States military has refused to offer compensation for victims of the Kunduz hospital bombing, and is likely to continue its previous policy of "condolence payments," Jonathan Witthall, Head of the Humanitarian Analysis of Medecins sans Frontieres told Radio Sputnik.

"What we've seen is that the US does not offer compensation, what they offer is condolence payments, they offer condolences for the loss of life and livelihood to the families of the deceased," Witthall told Radio Sputnik. The practice of offering condolence payments allows the US military to avoid acknowledging guilt, while making public relation gains at a relatively small cost. It was previously famously used after the US military shot down a civilian Iranian airliner, and then offered payments to relatives of the deceased on condition that they could not be used as evidence of guilt for further claims.

"The families of the people killed are not satisfied with the condolence money being offered, it's really not at all matching the severity of the events, the scale of the destruction, the scale of the loss of life and livelihood for many of the families," Witthall added.

US General John W. Nicholson, recently appointed as commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan recently offered an apology, which was not widely received by relatives of the victims of the attack. (Agencies)

(10) Afghan Skirmishes ...

militants captured a security forces base on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Nasratullah Jamshidi, an army spokesman in the neighboring Kunduz province, in talks with Xinhua reported the killing of 30 Taliban fighters and injuries of seven others across the troubled province over the past 24 hours.

Fighting usually gets momentum in spring and summer commonly known as fighting season among Afghans. (Xinhua)

(11) People ...

Hospital spokesman Mohammad Rafiq said the body of Gudamdar and two injured people were evacuated to hospital at 12:30pm. The injured were in stable condition, he added.

However, police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said Gudamdar - recently elected as head of the council - was shot injured by two motorcyclists in the Jakan area of Herat City.

The assailants managed to flee the scene, but police had launched a manhunt for the killers, he said. (Pajhwok)

(12) Fighting Erupts...

Taliban forces had captured two government outposts in clashes overnight in the area north of Kabul, not far from the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri, said police spokesman Zabiullah Shuja.

Thirteen insurgents were killed, along with one civilian and one policeman, he said. Taliban spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

After the January attacks on the grid bringing electricity from central Asia, it took security forces weeks to secure the area and get technicians in to make repairs.

Taliban insurgents still freely operate in the area, schools are closed, and people are afraid to leave their homes, said one resident, Mohammed Hussain.

Government troops had launched an offensive to blunt the Taliban advance in the area and the situation had stabilized, said Baghlan provincial governor Abdul Satar Barez. (Reuters)

(13) US Defence...

Called Mojave Viper, the programme concluded in 2014, but the actors claimed Tatilekhad to pay them for every hour they had spent on the base, according to Bloomberg.

In 2013, the workers were paid by \$17 per hour to play farmers, village elders and insurgents for two weeks. They spent much of their time in mock villages built from steel shipping containers. (Pajhwok)

(14) Poll Finds...

in terrorist attacks. Authorities in Islamabad maintain that anti-state militants sheltering in border areas of Afghanistan are behind terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

The two countries share a more than 2,500-kilometer long porous border called the Durand Line. Pakistani officials estimate up to 50,000 Afghans move across the border every day through two officially sanctioned crossings at Torkhum and Chaman.

The travelers include divided families who are issued special passes by authorities in both countries to enable them to see their relatives.

A large number of the border crossers are also from around three million Afghans living in Pakistan as registered refugees fleeing the conflict in their homeland, or as illegal economic migrants.

The refugee population uses a proof of registration card issued by Pakistani authorities to travel across the border while illegal migrants rely on bribes and unauthorized crossing points traditionally used by smugglers.

Dominant refugee group Economic and security challenges have forced tens of thousands of people in Afghanistan to flee the country in recent months.

The United Nations says Afghans make up the second largest group of people arriving in Greece after Syrians, with percentages varying from 28 percent in January to 25 percent in February.

The rate, according to U.N. officials, shows an increase from 2015, when about 21 percent of arrivals through the Mediterranean were from Afghanistan. Women and children make up more than 60 percent of sea arrivals to Greece, more than double the figures documented last year.

Afghan women wash and dry their clothes in Piraeus, near Athens, March 8, 2016. European Union leaders said they reached the outlines for a possible deal with Ankara to return thousands of migrants to Turkey early Tuesday.

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Afghanistan is strongly opposed to visa and other monitoring restrictions for the divided families. It has rejected long-standing Pakistani proposals for imposing strict measures to discourage terrorist and other illegal cross-border movements.

Afghans insist the restrictions will add to the problems divided families face.

The issue remains at the center of bilateral tensions because Islamabad believes without effectively monitoring the cross-border moment, counterterrorism efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan will remain under pressure. (VoA)

(15) Logaris Urge ...

Aminullah Khan Hospital" has been 80 percent completed.

Mohammad Nasir Ghairat, a member of the provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The people of Logar are facing many problems due to a lack of enough medical facilities, but the central government, particularly the Public Health Ministry, has been negligent toward the hospital project."

The public representative urged the officials concerned to resume construction work on the hospital keeping in mind problems being faced by Logar residents in the area of health.

Wolesi Jirga member from Logar, Mohammad Akbar Stanikzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Naib Aminullah Khan hospital was a Pakistan-funded project.

"The Afghan government should press Pakistan to complete its incomplete hospital project in Logar," the lawmaker said, claiming to have raised the issue several times on the assembly's floor.

He said he had sent many letters to the Ministry of Public Health calling for work on the hospital to be resumed.

The MP said if the hospital was completed and put into service, it would help resolve many problems the people of Logar currently faced.

A resident of Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, Mohammad Sadiq, told Pajhwok Afghan News the people of Logar were in dire need of more health facilities.

"There are no proper health services here, we have no option but to either take our patients to Kabul or Pakistan." He said the Pakistan-funded hospital project was launched nine years ago but could not be completed so far. A resident of Charkh district's Pangram village, Inayatullah, told Pajhwok that Logar province needed a well-equipped and modern hospital. "If the under-construction 300-bed hospital is completed and inaugurated, then we will no longer take our patients to Kabul."

Logar public health director Dr. Gul Rahman Shahi said the Naib Aminullah Khan Logari hospital was being funded by Pakistan and a Pakistani company was constructing it. He said work on the project came to a

halt three years ago for unknown reasons. He said the five-storey hospital was being constructed on 10 acres of land and its 80 percent work had been completed. He said Pakistan had pledged \$35 million for the hospital project.

Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, said the hospital project should have been completed a few years ago. "The governor's house has many times discussed the hospital with the Ministry of Public Health and the governor himself had mentioned it in Cabinet meetings. However, it is fortunate that Pakistan has promised to complete the hospital this solar year." He said the mega hospital was a priority for local officials and work on it would be resumed soon.

Currently there are three hospitals and 45 public and private health clinics in Logar.

Efforts at seeking comments from the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul about the Logar hospital project did not succeed. (Pajhwok)

(16) Khalilzad Gives...

regime in 2001.

In a discussion with Bob Shieffer, from the U.S's Center for Strategic and International Studies, Khalilzad said in answer to a question on what he meant in his book by Pakistan's "double game", he said that as with any project the size of Afghanistan, there is a golden hour but that parties involved in the reconstruction of the country missed that so-called window by not paying enough attention to the issue of safe havens.

In The Envoy, Khalilzad details his experiences as U.S ambassador to Afghanistan and Iraq. He gives candid behind-the-scenes insights into his postings, where he was uniquely placed to try to shape mutually beneficial relationships between the U.S and Afghanistan and Iraq respectively.

As U.S ambassador to Afghanistan and Iraq, he helped draw up two constitutions and forge governing coalitions.

In his book he argues that America needs an intelligent, effective foreign policy informed by long-term thinking and supported by bipartisan commitment. His book is part memoir, part record of a political insider, and part incisive analysis of the current Middle East and South Asian situation.

In his discussion last week with Shieffer, he was asked where Afghanistan is today? In response, Khalilzad said although the country is in a difficult situation, it is in a far better position than it was prior to 2001.

He said at that time there were no real institutions in the country and very little money in the bank - he said however, the magnitude of what the people had suffered at the time was saddening.

Today it is different, there are traffic jams in the city, close to 20 million cell phones, "Kabul has massively changed. It's become a huge city", children go to school and there are so many institutions such as universities. That is a positive change. "It is a different place," he said.

But he went on to say that this year would be a difficult security year and that the economic situation had worsened - especially after the withdrawal of troops at the end of 2014.

He said the National Unity Government leaders have also had a hard time making certain decisions.

"The mother of the problem of Afghanistan in terms of security has been the difficulty of the Afghans to come up with a formula To get Pakistan and Afghanistan, in particular the ISI, not to allow its territory to be used by the Taliban ... [a place] to be armed, to be trained and to have a safe haven there and to fight from there into Afghanistan."

Asked about Pakistan's "double game", he said as with projects as big and as important as Afghanistan there is a "golden hour", where people take you seriously. He said at the time the U.S demanded of Pakistan to distance itself from the government of Taliban in 2001.

At that time, the U.S should have made a strong case that a sanctuary for the Taliban was unacceptable. "We focused on the al Qaeda element and did not focus on what Pakistan was doing in Afghanistan. There was a question of prioritizing," he said.

In addition to what we were doing we needed to have had someone to work at a very high level who could make an arrangement between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Also there was an intelligence issue - there were conflicting ideals and views, due to interpretation differences, he said.

He added that over time the issue of a sanctuary, for the Taliban, became a huge issue and the so-called golden hour was lost.

Asked what he meant by "we signaled a lack of military resolve" - which is mentioned in his book, he said initially the U.S did not want to be involved in state building, but when they increased the forces to a few thousand and the international

community took responsibility for Kabul they were "of the view that the Afghans should have a force that they could afford".

A significant force one way or another was critical and only years later was a strong Afghan force built.

Asked about the relationship with former president Hamid Karzai, Khalilzad said he had been an ideal partner when he was ambassador to Afghanistan.

Karzai wanted a relationship that Khalilzad said he was not able to "change" - an "understanding that became bigger when I left".

He said Karzai wanted the U.S to "fix his problems" - develop infrastructure such as roads, banks, schools etc. Khalilzad said his job on behalf of the U.S was to help Karzai solve his own problems.

Karzai was afraid the U.S would abandon Afghanistan, not dominate the country, he said adding that "he felt we had abandoned them after the Soviet war."

"I call it Karzai 1. The honeymoon. Karzai 2 began to question what we were up to. Didn't understand why we were tolerating the sanctuary. We were giving money to Pakistan. We were giving them F-16s... and they were sending people to kill you and me, and people in our villages," and we were conducting night raids, and air strikes and things did go wrong at times, he said.

"He [Karzai] began questioning in his mind, did we want the war to go on indefinitely, was there an ulterior motive, why weren't we using our influence to deal with the Pakistani issue and he began to speak publically about the civilian losses in Afghanistan."

"As he spoke more publically, the reaction became more intolerant and he wanted us to solve his problems. He wasn't an effective manager to follow up. I used to argue with him that he needed a department for follow ups because we used to agree on so much then I would go away and a week later we would talk about the same issues. So he had his own weaknesses. But the core problem was the stress rising from not dealing with the sanctuary issue."

Khalilzad was born in Mazar-e-Sharif and is a U.S. counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He was the United States ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush and has been involved with U.S policy makers at the White House, State Department and Pentagon since the mid-1980s. He has also served as U.S ambassador to Afghanistan and U.S ambassador to Iraq. (Tolonews)

(17) 53 Afghans...

children. At least 22 Pakistanis were also held for trying to enter Iran via the sea route without valid visas and other documents.

On March 17, the coast guards apprehended 103 illegal immigrants in Pasi area. Officials suspect criminals and militants may flee the ongoing Zarb-i-Azb operation in the country. (Pajhwok)

(18) Jabalus Saraj ...

people were employed in the factory, whose rehabilitation would create indirect job opportunities for 5,000 more individuals.

Earlier, President Ashraf Ghani had identified investment in cement production as his administration's top priority. He has constantly encouraged entrepreneurs to invest in the cement business.

Besides the Jabalus Saraj plant, Ghori Cement Factory is functional in Baghlan province. Set up in 1961, its current production capacity is 400 tonnes per 24 hours.

The factory was handed over to the private sector for 49 years in 2007 and since then hundreds works have been working for it.

The Parwan factory was set up in 1958 to produce 100 tonnes of cement meet demands of the local market but its operations were halted due to the debilitating civil strife the country. (Pajhwok)

(19) Hurt in ...

Lucca is the 67th animal to win the award - equivalent of the Victoria Cross and the first US Marine Corps dog to receive the medal.

German Shepherd lost her leg and suffered chest burns after discovering a home-made bomb in Afghanistan. Her owner Gunnery Sergeant Chris Willingham visited London to receive the award.

Thirty-one dogs, 32 Second World War messenger pigeons, three horses and one cat have been honoured with the medal since its introduction in 1943, the TV channel reported.

Sent to Afghanistan in 2011, Lucca led 75 patrols in the IED-infested southern province of Helmand. On March 23, 2012, she found a weapons cache hidden under a haystack and alerted troops to the pressure-plate IED. When sniffing out a nearby path, another bomb exploded, blowing off her front left leg and wound-

ing her chest, neck and head. But 10 days later, Lucca was up and walking. She retired from active service after her injury. (Pajhwok)

(20) Burqa-Clad...

from the police, he said, adding two of the attackers were killed and the remaining two were injured.

One policeman was also killed and another was wounded in the clash, Bagh said, adding the wounded militants had managed to escape.

Allah Birdi, a resident of the area, said the clash lasted half an hour and resulted in the killing of a Taliban fighter and two policemen.

He said a third policeman was wounded in the clash. Birdi asked the government to conduct clearing operations in insecure areas to prevent Taliban attacks. (Pajhwok)

(21) Japanese PM...

Tokyo has been keen to resolve its territorial dispute with Moscow over four Pacific islands, known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, which has prevented both sides from inking a peace treaty after World War II. (Xinhua)

(22) OSCE Minsk ...

that its forces have killed 70 Armenian soldiers and destroyed 20 armored vehicles on Monday and Tuesday, while at least 16 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed during heavy fighting in the region.

After three days of fighting, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on Tuesday to a cease-fire, which took effect at noon. (Xinhua)

(23) EC Launches...

secondary movements. The Commission identified several priority areas where the Common European Asylum System should be structurally improved.

To deal better with a high number of arrivals and ensure a fair sharing of responsibility, the Commission could propose to amend the Dublin Regulation, either by streamlining and supplementing it with a corrective fairness mechanism or by moving to a new system based on a distribution key. The Commission intends to propose a further harmonization of asylum procedures, to ensure a more humane and equal treatment across the EU and reduce pull factors that draw people to a small number of member states. (Xinhua)

(24) Tensions ...

were docking in Mestos' port, 30 km from the capital of Chios. At Piraeus port, Greece's largest port, tensions were also running high on Wednesday, as the 4,500 people camping out across the port since early March, refused to leave the passengers' terminals for organized accommodation centers. Protesters complained to Greek officials who visited the site that conditions at organized centers were not good and chanted slogans for the opening of the borders. (Xinhua)

(25) Over 5,000 ...

for the junior doctors in the summer, which was rejected by BMA.

"By imposing a contract that junior doctors have no confidence in and refusing to re-enter talks with the BMA, the government has left us with no choice," Malawana added. (Xinhua)

(26) Turkey, ...

to Turkey. Since it was implemented on Monday, 202 people, mostly from Pakistan, have been returned. Greek and Turkish officials say more may be sent back this week. But the number of illegal migrants arriving on the Greek islands fluctuates daily, and many are still trying to cross. (Reuters)

(27) S. African ...

Earlier on Wednesday, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) said it is hoping that as many new voters as possible will join the existing 25.6 million registered voters to boost the voters' roll above its current level of about 75 percent of the eligible voting population. To significantly increase the current voters' roll will require a large number of young first-time voters to register this weekend, the IEC said. (Xinhua)

(28) Islamic State...

The Syrian source said Tuesday night's attacks outside Damascus appeared to be the jihadist group's response to its reverses around Palmyra. Islamic State attackers, using five bomb-laden cars, also struck military positions near the Dumeir military airport 40 km (25 miles) northeast of Damascus, killing 12 soldiers, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based organization that tracks the war, said. (Reuters)

(29) Tajikistan Holds...

and regional issues being of mutual interest, including the fight against international terrorism, extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking. (Asia-Plus)