

### (1) Govt Concerned...

and consider them as national assets, he added.

Danish termed smuggling and illegal mining of natural resources as a challenge and stressed protection of natural resources.

Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, the European Union Head of Delegation to Afghanistan, said the EU supported Afghanistan's efforts to exploit its natural resources.

He also termed smuggling and illegal mining of natural resources a big challenge and demanded an end to the illicit practice.

He suggested the government of Afghanistan in coordination with local shuras should prevent illegal mining. He said EU investors were interested in making investment in Afghanistan's mining sector and there was need for creating friendly conditions for investment. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Afghanistan Summons...

Ahmadi tweeted.

U.S. and Taliban officials have held several rounds of talks but the Taliban has refused to talk directly to the Afghan government, which they consider an illegitimate regime.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's mandate officially expires in May. The date for the next presidential election has been postponed twice and is now set for Sept. 28.

Ghani has been shut out from the peace talks and is under pressure from rivals to step aside and allow a caretaker government to take over, a suggestion he has rejected. (Reuters)

### (3) Thousands...

Bala Murghab district have been displaced and have fled to the center of the province.

"Between 10,000 to 15,000 families have fled to the Qala-e-Naw city and Herat province," a Badghis resident Ziauddin Akazai claimed. "They have not received any assistance so far."

"Security forces acted late on Bala Murghab district. The casualties among the government forces would not have been this much high if they have acted on time," said Abdullah Fazli, Deputy Head of Badghis district Council. Other residents said the displaced families need assistance.

"We argue central government to conduct airstrike as soon as possible in the district to break the siege," said Mohammad Asif a civil society activist in Badghis.

"Threats are high in the Bala Morghab district and enough assistance has not been done and the forces are not able to take those areas from the Taliban without air support," said Ahmad Amiri, a Badghis resident. (Tolo news)

### (4) Peace will...

said Nadir Khan, a Paktia resident.

"Both Taliban and the government are tired of war and now is time for peace because after seventeen years of war no one is the winner," said Ismail Zahid, a Paktia resident.

The remarks come as the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad is in Kabul for talks with the government leaders and Afghan officials to discuss the peace process.

In a recent development, President Ashraf Ghani chaired the first meeting of the Reconciliation Leadership Council at the Presidential Palace on Sunday.

Sources said that the Afghan government has prepared two lists of 22 individuals for peace negotiations with the Taliban and a list of 37 people as members of the Council for Reconciliation.

The lists were discussed in the first meeting of the Reconciliation Council at the Presidential Palace on Sunday. Sources told TOLONews that the government has agreed for Afghans inside and outside the government participate in the upcoming meeting with the Taliban in Doha on 14-15 April.

Speaking at the meeting, Ghani said the council has been formed after many consultations and that it includes different layers of society. (Tolo news)

### (5) IECC Expedites...

"Existence of such leaders in the electoral organizations is a big challenge which will result in poor time manage-

ment," said Naeem Ayubzada, head of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

The former members of the election commissions were removed from their posts late in February and their cases were sent to the Attorney General's Office to probe allegations lodged against them.

"The election commissioners have been subjected to daily attendance and they are obliged to visit the investigation team and fill an attendance sheet once in every two weeks," said Jamshid Rasuli, spokesman for Attorney General's Office. (Tolo news)

### (6) Baghlan Police...

said a Baghlan resident.

The police chief said new check posts have been installed along the Balkh-Baghlan highway to improve security of the key highway.

"We have established several check posts on the highway to prevent Taliban attacks and we warn Taliban that after this, we will not let them to target government and non-government institutions. We also assure our people that we will maintain their security," said Fedahi.

The resident warned that Baghlan will change into an insecure province if clearance operations are not conducted.

"Baghlan is an insecure province and if the operation is not conducted the province will become more insecure," said Rahimullah, a Baghlan resident. (Tolo news)

### (7) Govt Proposes...

- Haji Din Mohammad, politician and tribal elder

- Attaullah Ludin, former governor of Nangarhar

- Shah Gul Rezaee, former MP

- Abdullah Qarloq, deputy chairman of The National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan

- Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi, former MP

- Shamim Khan Katawazi, former MP

- Mohammad Omar Barikzai

- Abdul Khaliq Bala Karzai, former MP

- Mawlawi Jora

- Azizullah, Oural

- Fazil Karim Aimaq, former member of the High Peace Council

- Jamaluddin Badr, former governor of Nuristan

The proposed list of members of Reconciliation Council:

- Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, former Jihadi leader

- Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Afghanistan

- Hamid Karzai, former President

- Abdul Rashid Dostum, First Vice President

- Sarwar Danish, Second Vice President

- Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hizb-e-Islami

- Mohammad Karim Khalili, head of the High Peace Council

- Engineer Mohammad Khan, First Deputy Chief Executive

- Mohammad Mohaqiq, Second Deputy Chief Executive

- Hamdullah Mohib, National Security Advisor

- Mohammad Ismail Khan, former Jihadi leader

- Salahuddin Rabbani, Acting Foreign Minister

- Haji Din Mohammad, Deputy Head of the High Peace Council

- Mohammad Asif Mohsini, religious scholar and former Jihadi leader

- Yunus Qanooni, former Vice President and vice presidential candidate

- Anwarul Haq Ahadi, former Minister of Finance

- Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, Wolesi Jirga Speaker

- Fazl Hadi Muslimyar, the Meshrano Jirga Speaker

- Sayed Yusuf Halim, head of the Supreme Court

- Farid Hamidi, the Attorney General

- Qiyamuddin Kashaf, head of the Ulema Council

- Mawlawi Enayatullah Baligh, religious scholar

- Abdulhaqi Arghandiwal, head of Hizb-e-Islami party

- Habiba Sarabi, Deputy Chairperson of the High Peace Council

- Suraya Subhrang, women's rights activist

- Hasina Safi, Acting Minister of Information and Culture

- Suraya Dalil, former Minister of Public Health

- Ghezal Haris, member of Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution

- A civil society representative

- Khan Jan Alokozai, the private sector representative

- A youths representative

- Gul Agha Shirzai, Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs

- Noor Rahman Akhlaqi, a representative of Jamiat-e-Islami party

- Ayatullah Waez Zada Behsudi, religious scholar

- Sadiq Mudabbir, former head of the Administrative Office of the President

- Khawani Jahani, a south-east tribal elder

- Omar Babrakzai, a south-east tribal elder

(Tolo news)

### (8) Peace Jirga Unfair...

to be spent on the Loya Jirga, which was not called into session by the government to gain a political mileage. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Treasure from...

Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and survived the war by being hidden in secret vaults under the central bank building in Kabul before they reappeared in 2003.

The treasures have been exhibited in more than 20 museums in France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Germany, Britain, Australia, Japan and South Korea since October 2006. They started a tour in China in March 2017. (Xinhua)

### (10) Fight Will Continue...

if they continue to insist on war.

"Today, we are here in Zabul to assess the preparedness and coordination between the security forces," Waziri said. "The security forces are fully prepared and there is good coordination and harmony between them."

"At the same time, we conveyed them the necessary directions. So far, security forces have accomplished their duty with full responsibility and they have great morale to provide security to their people," Waziri added.

Commander of 2015 Atal Army Corps, Imam Nazar Behbud, said there is good coordination between the Afghan and foreign forces in Zabul.

"In the south, whether it is military or civilian units, there is good coordination between them and the Resolute Support. We are working with the coalition forces on the key priorities. We have also arranged programs for operations in Uruzgan province. Our operations will be launched there in the near future but we are coordinating our operations according to the needs. So, we are very happy to see there is good coordination," Behbud said. Zabul Governor Rahmatullah Ziarmal, meanwhile, called on the Taliban to join peace.

"As a servant of Zabul people, I want to call on the Taliban that still there is an appropriate opportunity to come and join Zabul local government and cooperate with their brothers in the ranks of the security forces and contribute in the rebuilding and development of Zabul so that the province becomes a peaceful place," said the governor.

This comes as peace efforts are underway at national and international levels. In a recent development, the Afghan government held the first meeting of the Reconciliation Council, which is comprised of Afghan political leaders, civil society members, religious scholars, activists and other representatives of the society, to create a "unified and clear" stance on peace. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 11 Killed as...

missing after militants stormed their check-post in the district.

The Taliban have claimed credit for the attack. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Rwanda Somberly...

The Tutsi minority was blamed for downing the plane and the bands of Hutu extremists began slaughtering the Tutsi, with support from the army, police, and militias.

Kagame's government has previously accused Hutu-led government of 1994 of being responsible for shooting down

the plane and has blamed the French government for turning a blind eye to the genocide.

On Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron ordered a government study into the country's role in Rwanda before and during its 1994 genocide. Macron ordered a commission of researchers and historians to investigate the "role and involvement of France" in Rwanda from 1990-1994. It is to make conclusions within two years. (AP)

### (13) Pushing A New Line...

idea, as he signed off on his wife's venture right in his cell in a New York prison. It remains unclear, however, what exact contribution to fashion could be made by a common clothes-wearing man, who mostly gained international notoriety for his repeated escapes from Mexican custody - particularly through a 1.5km underground tunnel - and not by being a fashion icon.

The upstart project is facing problems though, as the US authorities were less-than-amused by the prospect of a criminal's name being used for a fashion brand. Such a trademark would allegedly "violate public order, morality and good manners."

El Chapo's lawyer and Aispuro's "designated representative," Mariel Colon Miro, however, maintained that the project was running smoothly by boasting that she "received a lot of responses from designers who are interested in forming part of the project." Dismissing the possibility of legal hurdles she said that "the trademark application was filed and we are just waiting."

El Chapo, 61, was found guilty on all 10 charges related to large-scale drug trafficking and murder conspiracy in the climax in February of the 11-week-long trial. The notorious criminal, who ran a criminal empire as complex as a big international corporation and was repeatedly compared to another infamous drug lord, Pablo Escobar, already found his way into popular culture, when Netflix and Univision co-produced a TV series about his life. (RT)

### (14) Netanyahu...

Russian President Putin to his close ally and friend President Donald Trump, who has lavished him with a string of political gifts.

Netanyahu sells himself as the only one who can protect Israel from the rising tide of Iranian aggression and accelerate Israel's global acceptance, nursing diplomatic relations with former adversaries across the Arab world.

But his rule looks more uncertain than ever after the attorney general's recommendation to indict him on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. Allegations that he manipulated the press through shady deals and accepted lavish gifts from his billionaire friends have thrown his rule into jeopardy.

He has denied all charges, accusing police, prosecutors and the media of orchestrating a political witch hunt to topple him.

Alarmed by the prospect his right-wing bloc could fail to form the next coalition after two former allies joined forces against him, Netanyahu forged an alliance with an extremist faction inspired by the banned Kahanist movement, branded a Jewish terrorist organization by the U.S. for an extremist agenda that includes the forced expulsion of Palestinians.

Although Netanyahu's controversial political alliance and the corruption allegations have rattled many Israeli voters - and drawn condemnation from American Jews - it hasn't quite dented his personality cult. He remains admired by his right-wing, populist base. (Fox News)

### (15) Mexico to Purge...

positions, such as teachers who were no longer teaching. The audit also showed 1.39 billion pesos (\$77 million) in irregular payments from education funding, such as unusually high salaries and payments to non-teaching union personnel.

The states of Michoacan and Oaxaca had the highest number of unexplainable payments.

Michoacan suffered paralyzing rail blockades in January by striking teachers demanding back pay from the state government.

The crowd on Saturday booed Michoacan Gov. Silvano Aureoles, who appeared alongside López Obrador. (AP)

### (16) EU, China...

EU Council President Donald Tusk has told member states they should reject a draft summit statement, a source told AFP, "given that China has not delivered on key EU expectations and demands, including ensuring market access and a level playing field for European companies operating in China." The source complained there was also a "lack of Chinese commitment" to serious World Trade Organization reform that would include industrial subsidies - a key demand of the EU, which says Beijing gives unfair support to its industries.

A senior EU diplomat confirmed that talks to agree a joint statement had foundered on the issues of market access and WTO reform.

"This doesn't bode well and constitutes already now a serious burden for the summit," the diplomat said.

"If China doesn't change its negotiating positions substantially and engage in a meaningful way, there will not be enough common ground to agree on a joint declaration."

Ahead of the summit, the European Commission last month labelled China a "systemic rival" and presented a 10-point plan proposing a more assertive relationship with Beijing, which French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed as a belated awakening. (AFP)

### (17) Turkey Says...

Netanyahu, asked why he had not declared Israeli sovereignty over large West Bank settlements as Israel has already done in the occupied Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, said he was already discussing the move.

"I am going to extend (Israeli) sovereignty and I don't distinguish between settlement blocs and the isolated settlements," he told Israel's Channel 12 News on Saturday.

Palestinian leaders reacted angrily, blaming what they said was a failure by world powers to stand up for international law.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman echoed those charges on Sunday. "Will Western democracies react or will they keep appeasing? Shame on them all!" Ibrahim Kalin tweeted.

The Palestinians and many countries deem settlements to be illegal under the Geneva conventions that bar settling on land captured in war. Israel disputes this, citing security needs and biblical, historical and political connections to the land.

Erdogan, whose Islamist-rooted AK Party has led Turkey for 16 years, has criticized the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump over its pronounced support for Israel, including Washington's decision to move its Israel embassy to Jerusalem.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future state they are seeking. Peace talks with Israel have been frozen since 2014. (Reuters)

### (18) Manipulation...

party from unrestrained lawmaking power.

"After the election ... the majority of the people feels a sense of hopelessness and distrust for the election process," said Pheu Thai's secretary-general, Phumtham Wechayachai.

"People are talking about the Election Commission's part in supporting the extension of power by the National Council for Peace and Order," he said, using the junta's formal name.

The Election Commission's secretary-general, Jaroongwit Phumma, told Reuters the body is not helping the promilitary party.

"The election commission is neutral and adheres to the law. We don't take sides or help one particular party," Jaroongwit said.

Palang Pracharat said it does not gain any advantages over opposition parties.

"It's completely false to say that the election commission is helping Palang Pracharat. This is an attempt to discredit us," the party's deputy spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana told Reuters. (Reuters)