

(1) Kabul's...

with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will launch an artificial replenishment program for ground water resources to resolve water problems in the short-term.

"We have different plans on hand to replenish Kabul underground water. You know that in the past the population was less and that less water was used, but now more people have come to Kabul and use more water," he said.

Officials at the Asian Development Bank also said they will support MoEW plans to maintain underground water levels.

"It is important that we do have a strong relationship and a lot of partners involved with this project and that they only work together to provide support," Thomas Panella, ADB country director said. (Tolonews)

(2) Demining ...

"600 square kilometers were remained from the first plan which needs to be cleared, another 400 square kilometers added to this figure, it means that today we in Afghanistan need to clear more than one thousand square kilometers for mines," said Barkam. "The lack of budget is delaying our ten years operational plan on the basis of which, all areas of Afghanistan are supposed to be cleared of mines and other unexploded ordinance until 2023," said the chairman of the mine action department Mohammad Shafiq Yusufi.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has also rallied for support from the international community to finance the Afghan demining programs. The UN mission in Afghanistan has also voiced concern over the issues and suggested continued international support to tackle the problem.

Toby Lanzer, UN envoy's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan has said that the international community should continue its long-term cooperation with Afghanistan to accomplish the mission.

"We will do what we can that's all we can do, we will do what we can to work with you, I have heard the calls to the donor community to continue to be generous, but we also have to remember that the donors are being asked to be generous in lots of different areas and the envelop is only so big. So together in one way or another we will have to find a way forward," he said.

Based on statistics, over the past twenty years, more than nineteen million mines and unexploded ordinance were discovered and defused across Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(3) Alizai to ...

been taken and we will act accordingly in the near future," Najib Danish, acting director of MoI spokesman said.

Western Herat local officials meanwhile said as soon as they receive the arrest warrant they will detain Alizai.

"We are ready to execute orders. We are ready to implement any order we receive from the capital (Kabul)," Jilani Farhad, Herat governor's spokesman said.

The primary court of the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center (ACJC) sentenced Alizai to two and a half years in prison two weeks ago for misusing his authority, intervening in Herat attorney general's affairs, insulting prosecutors and ordering the release of a detained man from the Herat attorney general's office.

Following the court's decision, Alizai supporters demonstrated for two days in Herat and closed roads. They called for the court's decision to be overruled. (Tolonews)

(4) MPs Absent...

decided to suspend membership of public representatives who were consecutively absent for 20 days of a month under articles 73 and 119 of the internal regulations.

He said salaries would be also paid to lawmakers based on their attendance and they would be subjected to salary cut for the days absent.

A number of lawmakers supported the decision and asked the administrative board to enforce it equally on all house members including members of the administrative board. (Pajhwok)

(5) Transparency...

management regulation and decided to refer the code to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for reform suggestions.

The regulation would be sent back to the cabinet once the MoJ provided suggestions for reforms in the code. The educational scholarship management regulation has six chapters and 35 articles. (Pajhwok)

(6) Russia Spurns...

illustrated Moscow's support to the enemies of Afghanistan.

They quoted unnamed sources as saying the delegation of the Russian General Staff had been seen along with the Pakistani military personnel at Taliban training camps in Waziristan.

Previously, the statement recalled, ex-governor of Kunduz Mohammad Omar Safi had alleged supplies of modern optics, weapons and heavy weaponry including T-62 tanks to the militants from Russian across the Tajik-Afghan border.

The global coalition in Afghanistan was represented by a sufficiently large number of countries, including the United States, having intelligence services and the latest technology, the embassy added.

"It is strange that no photo or video material has been submitted so far and there were no satellite images or result of aerial photographs taken with UAV confirming the transfer of such large armored vehicles as tanks." The embassy insisted accusations of Russia's financial and logistical support to the Taliban were simply not true and at the present difficult stage of finding ways to establish a peace process, such actions were counter-productive.

Russia claimed making an important contribution to the collective fight against terrorism in Afghanistan by providing assistance to the Afghan security forces, including weapons, and training of the Afghan law enforcement personnel.

In 2017, Russia's Ministry of the Interior provided Kabul with 185 scholarships. A separate quota is also reserved for Afghan border guards and another 20 people will get higher education. Similar programmes are being developed for the Drug Policy of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(7) Rise in

into the incident. The gunmen fled the area.

"In the morning while two ACJC employees were on their way to their offices, unknown gunmen shot them dead. Our investigative team has started investigations and we hope by the end of the day we reach a convincing result," Najib Danish, MoI spokesman said.

Kabul residents said they are worried about the rise in targeted killings, kidnappings and insecurity and criticized government for not having a clear and efficient plan to prevent crime in the capital. (Tolonews)

(8) 18 Drug ...

kilograms of heroin, 184 litres of alcoholic drinks, four weapons and some ammunition, 22 mobile sets and six vehicles were seized from the detainees.

Moahid said cases of the detainees were currently being interrogated by CJTF, and their results would soon be given to the media. (Pajhwok)

(9) Nangarhar ...

facilities were reasons that led to the increase in revenue, Mazhar said.

He confirmed corruption continued in the customs, but its level had decreased after the system was computerized.

"Customs is among government offices where corruption cannot be ruled out, but we have prevented it to a greater extent," he said.

He said the revenue collected in the first quarter of current fiscal year was 4.14 million afghanis higher than collected during the same period last year.

"In the first quarter, we collected 2.5 billion afghanis which shows 4.14 million increase," he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Jalga Residents ...

serve the people over 15 years as police chief for the district.

"Residents often complain to higher authorities against the district police chief. The provincial police chief promised

the people the district police head would be replaced. But the promise is yet to be honoured." Maulvi Mohammad Baqi, another protester, claimed: "Baba Afzal is has links to murderers, smugglers and thief. He has never bothered about preventing criminal activities in his bailiwick."

Baqi also accused the police chief of being complicit in the killing of a district officer. The protester alleged Afzal had taken no action taken against the killers of the district officer.

Baghlan police chief, Brig. Gen. Ikramuddin Sarai, said talks on removing the Jalga police chief were underway. He added the provincial administration was trying to bring positive changes to the police force. (Pajhwok)

(11) Politicians ...

Dostum were raised yet Ghani has still not commented and no agenda is in place to resolve these issues.

"President really has problems in deciding about major issues and when sometimes he takes a decision, then he dissolves it. Mostly he keeps himself busy with small issues and deceives people," said Anwar-ul-Haq Ahadi, chairman of The New National Front Party.

Although the president continuously stresses the need for accountability and the need to implement the law on all people, he carries out his business based on personal interests, politicians said.

"The president does not have a national agenda and people do not know what the president's agenda about the people and the country is. He has a personal agenda and he looks at the national issues based on his personal interests," Ahmad Wali Massoud, head of Massoud Foundation, said.

A number of Parliament Members (MPs) meanwhile said Ghani does not believe in the implementation of the law and bringing reforms in government departments.

"Whatever they do and whatever they do not do, they first consider their own interests and power and it is not important for them who has violated the law," said Ramazan Bashardost, an MP.

Five months ago seven ministers were dismissed by parliament over not spending their development budget, but still they are working as acting ministers.

Dostum meanwhile is under house arrest over the allegations made by Ahmad Eshchi, the former governor of Jawzjan province, but Ghani refused to comment on these issues. (Tolonews)

(12) Ghani Copying...

achievements of the Afghan government since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

The media and entertainment along with several other sectors including information technology and telecommunications had major achievements which were once banned during the rule of the Taliban regime from mid 90s to late 2001 when the regime of the group was toppled in a US-led invasion. (KP)

(13) Ulemas ...

has a history in supporting the Taliban against the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

Fazal is a pro-Taliban Pakistani political leader who had endorsed the Taliban extremism in Afghanistan, calling it a legitimate war against the foreign forces.

The remarks by Fazal-ur-Rehman were followed after a meeting with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani who visited Pakistan on a two-day state visit shortly after taking office as the new President of Afghanistan. (KP)

(14) Kunduz ...

said that it has launched an investigation into the report.

"If such people commit some sort of violation and embezzle the rights of the martyrs, naturally they must be tackled legally," said Najib Danish, spokesman for the MoI.

The Afghan government pays 100,000 AFs to the families of fallen soldiers. However these families struggle to get the money. But the question before the people is how does the Taliban get access to the money despite them being in an armed struggle against the people and the security forces. (Tolonews)

(15) 3 Kandahar ..

Zahir Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News thousands of children had been deprived of an education due to closer of schools in the country.

There are 17 schools in Shah Wali-likot district and 12 of them are still closed for security reasons. Education officials say insecurity, lack of professional teachers and other problems are main factors behind closure of schools.

Across Kandahar, there are 573 schools and only 420 of them have been operational and 153 closed. (Pajhwok)

(16) Central Bank ..

could easily be put back into circulation.

"Worn-out money should be burned according to its serial number and by a team made up of various departments in a transparent way to prevent corruption," said Taj Mohammad Akbar, former head of Pashtany Bank, (a private bank).

The institution overseeing the process to destroy the bank notes said they first go to the Central Bank and after counting the bank notes, transfer them to the store and then burn the worn-out bank notes.

"Yesterday we checked and packed the money and today we are here to burn it," said Muhammad Arif Musazai, head of payment department of finance ministry.

Afghanistan pays 3 AFs for every bank note printed. (Tolonews)

(17) Rashid Spins...

He's a superstar in the making..." Adjudged man of the match, Rashid said: "It's a positive message back home in Afghanistan. Their players have helped me. The crowd here has given me a lot of support and love..." (Pajhwok)

(18) Security & Cash

its programmes based on Islamic values and national interests but he did not know why they were threatened.

He added they had shared the issue with the central government several times, but no corrective action had been taken so far.

On the other hand, the governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, also confirmed the radio had stopped broadcasting. He said staff of the radio station had complained to the governor's house several times.

He said the governor had ordered security organs to ensure radio station workers' protection. "Ensuring security for workers of all media outlets is our responsibility," Saleh said.

Many media outlets have been closed in different parts of the country due to security threats and financial problems in recent years. (Pajhwok)

(19) 21 Taliban...

and wounding 45 security forces during clashes in the last four days in Sar-i-Pul province.

Separately, security forces seized 12 arms and arrested one person in connection with the seizure in central Parwan province.

Parwan police in a statement said security forces seized one Kalashnikov, eight pistols, two hand grenades and 2,000 bullets in a house in the provincial capital, Charikar. (Pajhwok)

(20) 1 Woman...

were fallen to Taliban in Darzab district.

The people killed in Taliban clash yesterday were still laid on the ground as no one goes close to them due to the conflict, she said.

Sadaf criticized security officials and said no any action had been taken yet for reinforcement of security forces in battle with the militants.

"If this situation continues, a human disaster is expected to happen soon," she said.

Taliban did not comment about the clashes in Darzab so far. Separately, a Taliban commander Faiz Mohammad was killed and one of his fighters wounded when they stormed a security post in Qush Tapa district of Jawzjan.

The governor's spokesman, Mohammad Reza Ghafari, said a woman was also killed when a militant rocket struck a home on the outskirts of the district. (Pajhwok)

(21) 19 ISIS year, a step which was taken amid concerns that the ISIS affiliates are attempting to expand

foothold in Afghanistan and turn Nangarhar into their regional operational base. (KP)

(22) Zabul Man...

childhood. But the girl's parents engaged her to another man, something that resulted in the shocking incident.

She denounced the family's decision as an act of violence against the teenager, who was engaged her in childhood. Childhood engagements and marriages in Zabul often lead to bloody incidents. (Pajhwok)

(23) Kremlin, Angry...

no such meeting was planned, suggesting Tillerson will follow strict diplomatic protocol and only meet his direct counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"We have not announced any such meetings and right now there is no meeting with Tillerson in the president's diary," Peskov told reporters on a conference call.

He did not say why Putin was not planning to receive Tillerson. U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a missile strike on a Syrian military base last week in retaliation for what Washington and its allies say was a poisonous gas attack in which scores of civilians were killed. (Reuters)

(24) Russia to...

measures in Europe after the Cold War.

It took effect in 2002 and currently has 34 state parties, including Russia and most members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). (Xinhua)

(25) UNHCR Urges ...

mandatory detention for asylum-seekers came into effect."

The move is bound to put a new spotlight on Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government, which has faced scorn from U.N. agencies and advocacy groups over its tough policies on migrants – even if its populist message has resonated in the country and elsewhere in the West. (AP)

(26) Tillerson, Turkish....

a Syrian air base. Turkey backed Trump's decision but said pressure on the Assad administration should continue. Ankara also insists there should be no role for Assad in Syria's future. (AP)

(27) China Calls

constructive roles in maintaining international peace and security, Hua said. (Xinhua)

U.S. Bolsters Protection of Forces in Syria as Tensions Climb

WASHINGTON - The United States has made slight adjustments to its military activities in Syria to strengthen protection of American forces following cruise missile strikes last week on a Syrian air base that heightened tensions, U.S. officials told Reuters on Monday.

The officials, citing operational security concerns, declined to specify what measures the United States has taken after the strikes, which Damascus, Tehran and Moscow condemned.

But one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stressed the strikes had not slowed the campaign against Islamic State militants.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the cruise missile strike on Syria's Shayrat air base last week in retaliation for what Washington and its allies say was a poison gas attack by Syria's government in which scores of civilians died. The chemical weapons attack killed at least 70 people, many of them children, in the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun. The Syrian government has denied it was behind the assault.

Moscow says there is no proof that the Syrian military carried out the attack, and called the U.S. missile strike an act of aggression that violated international law.

A joint command center made up of the forces of Russia, Iran and militias supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday said the U.S. strike crossed "red lines" and it would respond to any new aggression and increase its support for its ally.

The United States has about 1,000 U.S. forces in Syria advising and training fighters to combat Islamic State and has regularly carried out air strikes against

the militants. Those strikes have continued.

But as U.S. jets fly in Syrian airspace, one big question is whether the United States and Russia are keeping open a military communications channel to avoid an accidental clash.

The United States used the channel to advise Moscow ahead of its attack on the Syrian air base, to help ensure Russian personnel, who were also located on part of the base, would not be harmed or misinterpreted the cruise missile strikes as an attack on them.

The U.S. military, which confirmed on Friday morning it believed the line of communications was still active, has since stopped commenting on whether it was operational.

Russian media has reported that Moscow has suspended the agreement that allows for those communications, a step that could heighten the risk of an accidental clash. (Reuters)

Glum EU braces for Turkey vote on Erdogan's powers

BRUSSELS - A referendum in Turkey on granting President Tayyip Erdogan sweeping new powers is unlikely to ease strained relations with the EU and risks killing off Ankara's stalled bid for membership of the bloc, officials in Brussels say.

Even if voters do not give Erdogan the executive presidency he seeks on Sunday, Turkey's democracy and judiciary will suffer damage and he is likely to put even more pressure on critics, they say.

"There is no good outcome," said Marc Pierini, a former European Union ambassador to Turkey now at the Carnegie Europe think-tank.

"There is a very wide gap between European leaders and Erdogan and I don't see that easily repaired," he said, predicting a "polite silence" from the EU if he wins.

Turkey, a NATO member state that began talks to join the EU in 2005, has become a crucial partner for the bloc by taking in millions of refugees fleeing from the six-year-old war in Syria.

But a crackdown by Erdogan since a failed coup last July has been condemned in European capitals, and he has alienated the bloc further by accusing the German and Dutch governments of acting like Nazis after they banned referendum campaign rallies by Turkish officials.

One senior official told Reuters an Erdogan victory, which would pave the way for the president being eligible to serve up to two five-year terms, could bring stability allowing the EU to upgrade trade and business ties. "Otherwise it would be chaos," he said.

But several others disagreed, with a second senior official rejecting that notion as "false stability in the name of one-man rule". With Erdogan supporters seeing a chance to cement his place as modern Turkey's most important leader while his opponents fear an even greater centralization of powers, polls suggest the vote - in which Turkish citizens abroad are also participating - will be close, EU officials see all outcomes - whether a clear victory for Erdogan, a narrow loss or a contested result - as risky.

A win would embolden Erdogan to move ahead with proposed constitutional changes and possibly introduce the death penalty, they say, thereby ending Turkey's bid to join the EU.

Its status is already an issue following the post-coup crackdown. Legal experts at the Council of Europe, a human rights body of which Ankara is a member, warned in March that creating a presidency with virtually unlimited powers was "a dangerous step backwards" for democracy.

Erdogan and his supporters dismiss such claims, saying there are sufficient checks and balances in the proposed system, such as the president having to call simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections if he dissolves parliament.

"If he loses, we can expect a very harsh and brutal election campaign, we would probably see both sides resorting to violence," a third senior EU official said.

"He would crack down on the opposition even more (and) ... if the result is contested, it could destabilize the overall situation." (Reuters)