

(1) Parties to ...

crisis did not have a military solution, that it can only be resolved by political means, as stipulated in the corresponding UNSC resolutions, according to the statement.

Attendees reportedly reaffirmed their readiness to assist in providing support to Kabul and urged the international community to continue supporting the crisis-torn country in order to ensure stability and national reconciliation.

Afghanistan is suffering from unstable political, social and security issues due to the activity of the Taliban movement and Daesh, both outlawed in Russia.

Earlier in the day, the fifth Afghanistan peace conference kicked off in Moscow, which was attended by 11 countries, including Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Afghanistan and a number of Central Asian states. MOSCOW (Sputnik)

(2) Corruption...

could prevail if the rule of law was strong and if people demand transparency and accountability from their leaders.

"Corruption is a cancer that will kill Afghanistan if left unchecked, and it's certainly important for all Afghans who love their nation to not let that happen," he said.

He said he was encouraged by major anti-corruption steps already taken by Afghanistan's leaders, such as creating a National Procurement Authority to improve transparency within the government's procurement system and establishing the Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC), which has prosecuted several government officials, including a two star general from the Ministry of Interior and a Provincial Council Chairman from Herat, for corruption.

He also said that President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah were both committed to encouraging transparency, building a professional merit-based civil service system, appointing more capable and professional officers to lead the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, and using technology to limit opportunities for corruption.

"At the same time, I would like to take a moment to also recognize the many good and honorable Afghan patriots who risk their lives in the fight against graft and corruption. They are some of the unsung heroes of this nation. Sadly, as we saw this week, they sometimes pay the ultimate price. I once again extend my heartfelt condolences to the two Afghan anti-corruption officials with the Major Crime Task Force who were brutally murdered this week. I believe their sacrifices will not be in vain," he said.

Llorens also said the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and its international partners were working more closely with Ghani and Abdullah to root out corruption.

But he pointed out that enduring change would come as the Afghan people increasingly demand efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness from their elected officials.

In conclusion he said: "It will take a lot of hard work, but reducing corruption at all levels is more urgent than ever. Everything the Government of National Unity does to fight corruption will help strengthen the bonds of trust with Afghan society and represents the only viable way this country can reach new levels of development, stability, and prosperity." (Tolnews)

(3) Pakistan Plans ..

16.5MAF and Chitral for about 8.5MAF.

Headed by AGN Abbas, the technical committee on water resources and dams recommended in 2003 a water treaty with Afghanistan to ensure the right of Pakistan.

In a bid to overcome its energy and water shortages, Afghanistan plans building four hydro-power projects in the Panjshir sub-basin, including the Totumdar, Barak and Baghdara projects.

Additionally, four dams are to be built in the Logar Upper Kabul sub-basin (Haijana, Kajab, Tangi, Wardak and Gat) and as many in the Lower Kabul sub-basin (Sarobi, Laghman, Kunar and Kama). (Pajhwok)

(4) McMaster ...

refused to give details of McMaster's travel to Afghanistan or any other country in the region. "I can't comment on any potential travel at this time," an administration official told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Afghanistan was one of the major topics of discussion between Trump and Stoltenberg. "Our mission in Afghanistan is a major contribution to the fight against international terrorism," Stoltenberg told reporters.

McMaster's trip is expected to focus on assessing whether more US forces are needed to turn around the 16-year-

old war in Afghanistan.

Gen. John Nicholson, commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said in February he needed a "few thousand" more troops to break a "stalemate" with the Taliban.

In an obvious U-turn, Trump said NATO was no longer an obsolete alliance. "I said (during the presidential campaign) it was obsolete. It's no longer obsolete. It's a great alliance."

According to well-placed source, McMaster will also fly to Pakistan India to discuss the stabilisation of Afghanistan and the threats posed by Taliban and the expanding footprint of the Islamic State.

In New Delhi, he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar.

"NSA McMaster, the key figure behind the US strike in Syria, will be in the region to assess the American role in Afghanistan and whether more troops are required in the near future," an Indian official was quoted as saying. (Pajhwok)

(5) UN Committee ...

The public sessions, held at Palais Wilson in Geneva, begin at 10:00 Geneva time and continue at 15:00 the following day. The sessions will be webcast live at: <http://webtv.un.org/>.

The Committee would publish its findings, officially known as concluding observations, on the respective states here on 12 May. A news conference to discuss the findings was scheduled for 12:30 on 12 May at Palais des Nations in Geneva. (Pajhwok)

(6) Airstrike...

following the incident.

According to ARG, precautions were taken to avoid civilian casualties with this air strike and that assessments of casualties to Daesh is in process.

Meanwhile, the Resolute Support mission also said in a statement that the strike was designed to minimize the risk to Afghan and U.S. forces conducting clearing operations in the area.

The mission said in the statement that the U.S. forces took every precaution to avoid civilian casualties with this strike. "The U.S. forces will continue offensive operations until ISIS-K (Daesh) is destroyed in Afghanistan," the Resolute Support said. (Tolnews)

(7) Turkmenistan...

news service in its report.

The UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, headquarters of which is located in Ashgabat, should play an important role in this process.

Turkmenistan implements large-scale regional projects in the energy and transport sectors aimed to restore the Afghan economy and social infrastructure, according to the report.

The construction of the transnational gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan (TAT) railway are among the most significant projects. Construction of the Turkmen section of TAPI was launched on Dec. 13, 2015. The pipeline's annual capacity will be 33 billion cubic meters. (trend)

(8) 16 Rebels....

He added security forces had advanced and recaptured two kilometres of area during ongoing offensive.

Taliban have not commented about Nawa operation.

But, the group's spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi wrote in his social media account that 18 policemen were killed and nine others wounded during the clash with Taliban in Bolan area late on Wednesday night.

Nawa district is under the Taliban control from the past one year. (Pajhwok)

(9) 'Right Time' ...

his first high-level delegation to Kabul, amid uncertainty about his plans for the nearly 9,000 American troops stationed in Afghanistan.

Nicknamed "the mother of all bombs," the weapon was dropped from an MC-130 aircraft in the Achin district of the eastern province of Nangarhar bordering Pakistan.

Nicholson said he was in constant communication with officials in Washington, but the decision to use the 21,600-pound (9,797-kg) GBU-43 bomb was based on his assessment of military needs and not broader political considerations.

"This was the first time that we encountered an extensive obstacle to our progress," he said of a joint Afghan-U.S. operation that has been targeting Islamic State since March.

"It was the right time to use it tactically against the right target on the battlefield."

Afghan and U.S. forces were at the scene of the strike and reported that the "weapon achieved its intended

purpose," Nicholson said.

Afghan Defence Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said no civilians were harmed in the massive blast that targeted a network of caves and tunnels that had been heavily mined.

"No civilian has been hurt and only the base, which Daesh used to launch attacks in other parts of the province, was destroyed," Waziri said in a statement.

He was using an Arabic term that refers to Islamic State, which has established a small stronghold in eastern Afghanistan and launched deadly attacks on the capital, Kabul.

The GBU-43 is a GPS-guided munition that had never before been used in combat since its first test in 2003, when it produced a mushroom cloud visible from 20 miles (32 km) away.

The bomb's destructive power, equivalent to 11 tonnes of TNT, pales in comparison with the relatively small atomic bombs dropped on Japan at the end of World War Two, which had blasts equivalent to between 15,000 and 20,000 tonnes of TNT.

At a village about 3 miles (5 km) from the remote, mountainous area where the bomb was dropped, witnesses said the ground shook, but homes and shops appeared unaffected.

"Last night's bomb was really huge, when it dropped, everywhere, it was shaking," said a resident, Palstar Khan, adding that he believed no civilians were in the area hit.

He praised the strike, saying killing Islamic State fighters was a "positive move."

Other residents said they saw militants climbing up and down the mountain every day, making occasional visits to the village.

"They were Arabs, Pakistanis, Chinese and local insurgents coming to buy from shops in the bazaar," said resident Raz Mohammad.

TESTING GRO

On Friday, the village was swarming with Afghan and international troops, as helicopters and other aircraft flew overhead.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said in a statement the attack was a part of a joint operation by Afghan and international troops.

"Afghan and foreign troops closely coordinated this operation and were extra cautious to avoid any civilian casualties," it said.

But former president Hamid Karzai condemned the use of the weapon on Afghan soil.

"This is not the war on terror, but the inhuman and most brutal misuse of our country as testing ground for new and dangerous weapons," he said on social media network Twitter.

The Taliban also denounced the bombing.

"Using this massive bomb cannot be justified and will leave a material and psychological impact on our people," the Taliban, who compete with Islamic State in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

American officials said the bomb had been positioned for possible use in Afghanistan for "some time" since the administration of former president Barack Obama.

The United States has steadily intensified its air campaign against Islamic State and Taliban militants in Afghanistan, with the Air Force deploying nearly 500 weapons in the first three months of 2017, up from 300 in the corresponding 2016 period.

Thursday's strike was not the first time Islamic State fighters have been targeted by heavy American bombardment in Nangarhar, where a U.S. special forces soldier was killed battling militants a week ago.

Last year, B-52 bombers operating out of Qatar flew at least two missions in Afghanistan for the first time since 2006.

Such aircraft can carry as much as 70,000 pounds (32,000 kg) of bombs, missiles, or other weapons on each mission.

In March, U.S. forces conducted 79 "counterterror strikes" against Islamic State in Nangarhar, killing as many as 200 militants, according to the U.S. military command in Kabul.

U.S. military officials estimate there are about 600 to 800 Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan, mostly in Nangarhar, but also in the neighbouring province of Kunar.

The United Nations has raised concerns that the American air campaign is swelling civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

Last year, air strikes by international forces caused at least 127 civilian deaths and 108 injuries, up from 103 deaths and 67 injuries in 2015, the United Nations said. (Reuters)

(10) US Largest ...

occurred in the bombing while important bases of the IS were destroyed from where attacks on Afghan forces and government institutions were planned and executed, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(11) Military ...

on Friday – but no details have been given regarding casualties in these strikes.

TOLnews reporter Karim Amini also said a large deployment of U.S. Special Forces had been sighted at the blast scene.

Meanwhile, Achin district residents, who have in recent months fled their homes because of Daesh activity, on Friday welcomed the move and called on government to continue their clearance operations.

"Lots of Daesh militants were there when the bomb was dropped; approximately 70 Daesh militants have been killed. It is good news that Daesh militants were killed. There were no civilian casualties," said Achin resident, Palstar Khan. (Tolnews)

(12) MoCI Awaits ...

are ready and that the meeting is held in Kabul because this time it is Kabul's turn to host the event and overcome the problems in this respect," said Khanjan Alokozay, deputy head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

"Businessmen have suffered heavy financial losses. Our question is why has the commerce ministry been silent. We have not witnessed any attempt by the commerce ministry to resolve problems," said Ahmad Shah Sadat, a local businessman. (Tolnews)

(13) Afghan Cleric...

to the US to launch war and defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan.

A statement from the AUC asked Fazal Rahman and other Pakistani clerics like him that where they were when Afghanistan was invaded.

The AUC accused Fazal Rehman of persuading the Pakistani Taliban to negotiations and the Afghan Taliban to fighting.

The Afghan Ulema challenged Fazal Rehman to a religious debate over his fitwas on Afghanistan and said his current stance was not academic or logical. (Pajhwok)

(14) Daesh Strength

citing intelligence information.

Kalimzai said regional intelligence agencies were training and equipping non state actors in form of militants groups and were sending them to Afghanistan for their strategic purposes. The governor declared Ghaziabad, Narai, Dangam and Chapa Dara district as insecure districts and claimed security situation in other parts of the province had improved.

Kalimzai also claimed a number of Daesh rebels had been killed and wounded in recent security forces' operations but provided no figures.

"Daesh atrocities and persecution in Nangarhar ended up in strong resistance and hatred from people and officials in Kunar are trying to unite the people against brutal Daesh," he said.

Kalemzai thanked the masses of their support to security forces and said: "The people are cooperative with security forces and all of them have sent their sons to the ranks of army and police, therefore security situation is stable in most parts of the province."

The governor expressed concern over rocket attacks from Pakistan, saying the shelling resumed a two-year long lull.

Four people have been killed and seven others wounded due to Pakistan's rocket attacks in the past two months. The Pakistani army fired around 900 rockets during this period.

In addition 285 families on the other side of the Durand Line evacuated their houses and sought shelter in a safe place. (Pajhwok)

(15) President ...

representatives from civil society institutes overseeing the process.

The statement said complaints of those who said they were not short-listed had also been addressed

The candidates who were not short-listed were facilitated to register their complaints through a formal letter to the commission. (Pajhwok)

(16) Violence ...

females.

Given their physical weakness, the rights campaigner explained, women were unable to do such work. Dadgar expressed apprehension over the situation, urging the authorities concerned to take immediate remedial measures.

Separately, the Women Affairs Department registered 150 incidents of violence against women in Daikundi. However, it is not known whether or not these cases have also been shared with the AIHRC.

Rahmatullah Shariati, a civil society activist, claimed public confidence in the judiciary had declined. Most perpetrators of violence against women went scot-free and that was why people did not take their cases to courts, he argued.

Nasiba, aa resident of Daikundi, be-

lieved the situation of women was far from satisfactory. Women in the province were considered inferior, she complained. "I more qualified women who have been deprived of their right to work." (Pajhwok)

(17) Work on ...

8.9 million afs.

The school would be handed over to the community in September this year, says Eng. Abdul Ahad Samoon, SCA head of office in the eastern zone. Iqbal Singh, principle of Baba-i-Kabeer primary school, said five years back, the government had approved their request for the construction of school building, but the promise was yet to be kept.

A non-government organisation supported them in running a primary school that was temporary established inside a temple.

"We had 130 students, but most of them have moved to Kabul, as Jalalabad lacks a proper school for them. The only school in the temple is educating children up to 5th grade, says Iqbal Singh.

"Currently there are 60 students including 25 girls enrolled in the primary school. We are thankful to SCA for the initiative to construct a school for our community," he added. (Pajhwok)

(18) Working Towards..

in Afghanistan in this area for over six weeks, and the last week it intensified, but our security forces along with the U.S. special forces couldn't make any further progress because dash had mined the area with IEDs quite heavily, and that resulted in dropping the bomb that would clear the tunnel complex and prevent them from being freely able to move," he said.

Mohib said there have been four tunnels, a complex that was used to go undetected, to move freely undetected. "Having destroyed the tunnel complex and the terrorists that were inside, in there, would now make – force them to move on surface that would be detectable," the Ambassador said. (Pajhwok)

(19) Pistachio ...

according to Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA).

This sector can offer huge potential for economic growth of the country, creating new job opportunities, and turning Afghanistan as a potential hub for certain agri-products in the region. (KP)

(20) Kabul Blast ...

him with his dreams; I want to call upon Ghani and Abdullah and their cabinet to step down if they cannot run the affairs [of the country]," said the victim's brother Sayed Khatib.

Meanwhile, Afghan Ulema Council scholars said that war against terrorism is an obligation.

Nadeem had been employed by the presidential palace guards (PPS) for five years.

"I was with him 15 minutes before the incident, he said you go I want to take a shower; I was in Abdul Haq square and someone informed me that Sayed Nadeem has been martyred," said Nadeem's colleague Mir.

"Those who are at ARG (presidential palace) do not feel the pain of the people. They only enjoy the luxuries, there are telephones, there is food and everything," said religious scholar Abdul Bari Madani. (Tolnews)

(21) 951 'Crime

Obaidullah Shinwari, criticized the government for always claiming achievements amid increasing crimes. He said the judiciary should support police and punish the detainees, otherwise crimes would increase further. Nangarhar residents said strongmen still committed crimes with impunity as security forces lacked courage to arrest them.

A resident of Jalalabad city, Gul Agha, said all the individuals police had arrested were ordinary people and hadn't committed serious crimes. (Pajhwok)

(22) Smugglers...

wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News Nimroz shared a 236-kilometer border with Iran and there were no security post along a 80-kilometer portion of the border.

He said Nimroz also shared a 185-kilometer border with Pakistan that 135 kilometers of it lacked security posts.

Few years back, the Afghan government decided to deploy another border battalion on Nimroz borders, but no action had since been taken to materialize the plan despite a shortage of police personnel, the source said.

The emptiness of the border paved the ground for militants and drug smugglers to easily rolled over the border, he said.

A provincial council member, Mulavi Gul Ahmad Ahmadi, also confirmed dozens of kilometers of the border with Iran and Pakistan were without

security posts, saying Nimroz would face increased problems in future if the situation remained the same.

"More security forces should be deployed to Nimroz and the border should be patrolled through the air to deny militants and smugglers movement in the area. If the government really wants to resolve security problems, it should control all the country's borders," he said. (Pajhwok)

(23) Documented ...

UNHCR office had been asked to talk with the Pakistani government about facilities for documented Afghan refugees.

But UNHCR head in Islamabad Abdul Hamid Jalili told Pajhwok Afghan News Pakistan could not provide facilities to the Afghans based on the refugee card.

"With the cards, we have just allowed the Afghans to live in Pakistan, we have promised no other facility in the card."

Jalili asked the Afghan refugees in Pakistan to voluntarily return to their home country and take part in Afghanistan's rebuilding.

Last year, Pakistan sent 0.7 million registered and unregistered Afghan families to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(24) Karzai, Zakhelwal ...

misuse of our country as testing ground for new and dangerous weapons," he said.

Separately Afghan envoy to Pakistan and President Ghani special envoy Hazrat Umar Zakhelwal termed the bombing of mother of bombs as reprehensible and counterproductive.

"I find the use of the largest non-nuclear bomb, the so called "mother of all bombs" on our soil reprehensible and counterproductive," he wrote. (Pajhwok)

(25) Afghan Refugee...

of violent offences three times, which led to a three-year prison sentence in 2010.

A year after being released he again committed an offence and was sentenced to another two years in prison, media reports stated.

Ruling on the man's appeal against his deportation, the court said there was a high risk that he would reoffend, based on the speed of his previous reoffending, his aggressive behavior in prison and the opinion of a psychiatrist, media reports stated. (Tolnews)

(26) 3 Pakistanis ...

regions of Pakistan.

Provincial governor's spokesman Atullah Khogyani last year that the documents obtained from the dead bodies and those arrested during the operations in Achin, Kot, Haska Mina and other parts of Nangarhar, reveal that they are originally residents of Orakzai Agency. (KP)

(27) DPRK Military ...

army and people of the DPRK," he said.

The spokesman further said that the counteraction against "U.S. and its vassal forces will be taken in such a merciless manner as not to allow the aggressors to survive."

"Under the prevailing grave situation, the U.S. has to come to its senses and make a proper option for the solution of the problem," he added. (Xinhua)

(28) China Urges ...

political solution is the only to deal with the Syria issue," Wang said when meeting the press after talks with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki in Beijing.

China calls on the international community to maintain solidarity and continue to support the UN as the main channel of mediation, Wang said. (Xinhua)

(29) French Investigators...

Le Pen said the judge's request was "a normal procedure."

The European Parliament has accused Le Pen of paying party staff working in France with European Union (EU) funds worth 340,000 euros (361,114 U.S. dollars), after she claimed they were European parliamentary assistants. (Xinhua)

(30) Italian PM...

is going to take place shortly ahead of a summit of the Group of Seven (G7) major economies, which is scheduled in the city of Taormina, Sicily, on May 26-27. (Xinhua)

(31) Russia Proposes

U.N. resolution drafted by the United States, Britain and France demanding that the Syrian military provide unfettered access for UN investigators to details of their operations on the day of the alleged attack. (Xinhua)

(32) China, Russia...

continue to boost cooperation on major projects and properly implement the projects they've agreed upon. (Xinhua)