

(1) Ghani, Khattak...

specifically talked on peace issues on both the sides of Durand Line. During the meeting, both the dignitaries voiced optimism that Pakistan and Afghanistan could ensure peace in both countries by joining hands against current challenges. Karzai, the statement said had expressed serious reservations over the killings of tribal elders, women and children on daily basis on both the sides of Durand Line.

"Military action and fighting won't resolve problems but give birth to distrust between the two governments and people," Karzai concluded. (Pajhwok)

(2) Moscow to ...

encompassing aid to Afghanistan in order to stabilize the situation in the country which remains complex," Lavrov said this during a meeting with Afghanistan's National Security Hanif Atmar in Moscow. "We are ready to work closely with you and with other foreign partners in overcoming terrorist and drug threats," he added. (Pajhwok)

(3) Developing Telecom ..

from Presidential Palace said. Ghani listened to their problems concerning taxes and asked the finance minister to hold a meeting with them and address their complaints. "The development of telecommunications sector is the government's priority," said President Ghani, adding that the government would provide all facilities the sector needed. (Pajhwok)

(4) India Committed ...

noted that Afghanistan had a very special place for India and the country was proud to be called Afghanistan's first strategic partner. "India is committed to assisting Afghanistan in its quest to become an independent, peaceful and prosperous country. We see this as being vital for India's security and the security of the wider South Asian region," Swaraj added.

The last 67 years of "development" experience in India has taught us the basic lesson that "if you empower the women of any community, the community is much more likely to allocate its resources wisely, feed and educate children better and invest in infrastructure, she noted. (Pajhwok)

(5) Aviation Ministe...

there were still a lot of children, mostly girls, who could not go to school for several socio-economic reasons. He said he would pay special heed to the education of girls.

Standardising the education system, fighting administrative graft and building more schools would be among his priorities, said Balkhi. He promised to increase teachers' wages and provide them with scholarship opportunities abroad if he wins a vote of trust from the house.

While, Dilbar Nazari, the women's affairs minister-designate, said she would appoint highly capable and educated women on top positions in the ministry and would establish a research centre.

She would work to enable women to reach top posts in several government organs. Her other priorities would be seeking justice for women, and programmes that enhanced their abilities in all walks of life.

She added, after receiving the trust vote, she would also work to bring about changes to the lives of women suffering from abject poverty and in this regard, she would work out programmes in coordination with parliament.

The public works minister-designate, Mahmood Baligh, promised to create programmes for reforms and enhancing capabilities of the ministry's employees.

"I will try to spend the ministry's budget within the given deadline," he said, adding that he would pay special heed to fighting corruption and promoting nascent railways in the country.

If endorsed, he would also work on developing and maintaining major highways and ring roads. "I will serve the entire country equally."

Mohammadullah Batash, the transport and civil aviation minister-designate, said his top priority would be removing Afghanistan's airlines from the European Union's blacklist and controlling the country's airspace.

"From zero to 16,000 feet the airspace is in our control and from 16,000 to 29,000 feet is controlled by international forces and above that is again in our own control. I would try through forming a committee to assume control of sovereign airspace," he said.

He said Afghanistan currently charged each international flight \$400 in tax and he would increase the

amount if granted the trust vote.

Solving all problems currently faced by the national carrier, Ariana Afghan Airlines, reactivating city transport buses and setting up a meteorological university would be his other priorities.

The Wolesi Jirga announced that the minister-designate for information and culture, Abdul Bari Jehani, held dual citizenship and he would not be allowed to present his plans unless his American nationality was revoked.

The unity government is yet to introduce a candidate to head the Ministry of Defence and the parliament is yet to set in motion granting the trust vote to nominees who have already presented their plans. (Pajhwok)

(6) CEO Hopes...

It quoted Abdullah as telling the distinguished guests that Pakistan should kindly treat Afghan refugees living there.

Khattak said the provincial and central governments of Pakistan had been working for improvement in Afghanistan's situation and reviving the stalled peace talks for the last few months.

He said the Pakistanis regarded Afghans as their brothers and they would support Afghanistan in areas ranging from refugees to politics, trade, economy and health.

The meeting also conferred on facilitating people's movement between the two countries, befitting from shared economic development opportunities and relaxing Afghans' entry to Pakistan for medical treatment. Abdullah told the Pakistani delegation that the unity government had been trying to improve relations with the world since its formation seven months ago.

He said Afghanistan's neighbours came first in the strategy to improve relations and hoped contacts initiated with Pakistan would yield positive results.

Abdullah said official contacts and cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields were in the interest of both the nations.

The CEO said the Afghan government was working on an organized plan to bring home Afghan refugees from foreign countries and urged Pakistan to treat well Afghans until the plan was implemented.

He tasked the Afghan ambassador to Pakistan, who was present at the meeting, to hold talks with Pakistani officials on jointly reducing problems in the cross border movement and registration of those crossing the border to each side.

The ambassador was told to discuss with Pakistani authorities transparency in customs deputy on transit trade goods and preventing smuggling of precious stones from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation, which will remain in Kabul until tomorrow, is expected to meet a number of Afghan officials, including ministers, and traders. (Pajhwok)

(7) China Donates ...

and Afghanistan have both enjoyed a peaceful neighborhood since ancient times. The Confucius Institute in Kabul University has played a vital role in promoting the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

He hoped the students could further enhance the ties between the two peoples by having a good command of the Chinese language.

Habibullah Habib, the president of Kabul University, expressed his gratitude to the Chinese Embassy's assistance.

He further encouraged the students learning the Chinese language at the Confucius Institute to further enhance the Afghan-Sino ties by learning the language well.

Zhao Jingwu, the Chinese director of the Confucius institute also expressed his gratitude to the Chinese Embassy and said the Chinese language learning students could significantly benefit from such donation.

The Confucius Institute at Kabul university was established in 2008. As the first of its kind across Afghanistan, the institute has enrolled about 270 students in seven years and around one third of them have studied in China with the scholarship by the Chinese government. (Xinhua)

(8) Pak, Afghan...

construction tools, rugs and carpets, handicrafts, furniture, food stuffs and fashion items.

Addressing the exhibition, Khan Jan Alokzay, deputy of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), expressed concerns over importing of low quality goods from neighbouring Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Muzamel Shinwari, Afghanistan's acting minister for trade and industries said the

transit problems between the two countries would be resolved soon.

He said volume of Afghan exports to Pakistan was low but efforts were underway to enhance business relationships between Kabul-Islamabad. Ghulam Dastgir, Pakistan's trade minister, while calling Afghanistan as Pakistan's decades old friend underlined the need for boosting trade and commerce activities between the two countries.

"We want to bridge bilateral trade gap and extend commerce relations and investment between the two countries," Dastgi stressed. (Pajhwok)

(9) Senior UN ...

Officials at the Afghan Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) have also announced that they will offer programs to help improve skills for women in business fields, stressing that various challenges such as security threats, social values, the nonexistence of business fundamentals and access to microcredit were among the main challenges that have hampered female participation in the business arena.

"In previous years, the government did not focus on the development of women in the business sector, an issue that hindered women from becoming involved in business. We expect the current government to not ignore the role of women," head of the social service coordination center of MoWA Mahrukh Yousafzai said.

"We are working to pave the way for women to be involved in various sectors so that they may expand their business activities. However it is taking time," head of the private sector department of the ministry of commerce and industries Abdul Rahim Saeedi said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a number of businesswomen have criticized the government for not doing enough to help. "The lack of a market is the biggest challenge in the way of business, because it prevents women from selling their products," businesswoman Hamida said.

According to economists, women currently play a small role in the commercial and business sector. If the government does not concentrate on the issue, it could have a negative impact on the future role of women in the economy. (Tolonews)

after hearing about the Air Force's recruitment of female pilots. She soon after became the first female pilot to serve in Afghanistan's military since 2001 and the fall of the Taliban. Rahmani's father was a strong supporter of his daughter, but he also warned her about the possible dangers and difficulties ahead of her. "Go for it, but you must be strong," Rahmani remembers him saying. Despite repeated threats from the Taliban and some conservatives to kill Rahmani as well as her parents and siblings, 23-year-old Rahmani refused to quit. "If you don't fight for your rights, they will never give them to you," she said during her visit to the US.

While visiting the United States to receive the award, Rahmani met with First Lady Michelle Obama, the Navy's Blue Angels, and the CEO of Girls Scouts San Diego. Rahmani then traveled to Miramar to meet fellow commanders and female pilots. Finally, she participated in the 59th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

"We need females to be a doctor, to be in each part of society. And we need female pilots too," Rahmani said. "I have the support of people all over the world. They know what I am fighting for. [The award] is for all the females in my community." (Agencies)

eastern city of Jalalabad. Speaking on the occasion, Jean-Michel Marlaud, ambassador of France to Afghanistan, said: "France applauds WFP's effective and timely response to humanitarian needs in Afghanistan, as shown during the spring floods in 2014 and the flow of refugees from Pakistan."

But in the future, Marlaud said those disasters would be more often the consequence of global warming; climate change should thus remain a concern of the Afghan authorities as much as support for disaster victims. Local purchase provides WFP with the fastest, most efficient and reliable means of ensuring a stable food pipeline during an emergency response. (Pajhwok)

(18) Refugees in...

undocumented Afghan nationals. Since the eruption of the conflict 35 years ago, the UNHCR has sent back more than three million Afghans to their country. The world body has been pushing Pakistan to show flex-

ibility and compassion to the refugees. Jacques Franquin alleged even refugees with valid documents were being harassed at security checkpoints after the December 16terrorist attack on the Army Public School and College in Peshawar.

About 15,000 genuine refugees have returned to their country over the last three months, as the new government in Kabul has demonstrated a willingness to receive its people. "The UN agency is not asking for extension after extension for PoR card-holders, because it does not provide a durable solution."

About 700 PoR card-holders have been arrested across the country following the Peshawar terrorist attack, according to UNHCR protection officer Bashir Ahmad, who said the world body had provided legal assistance to the detainees. (Pajhwok)

(19) Afghan National ...

articles of Tajikistan's Penal Code: Article 200 (3) - large-scale drug trafficking, Article 289 - smuggling, and Article 335 - illegal border crossing; an investigation is under way. On the same day, five residents of the southern province of Khatlon were detained on suspicion of drug trafficking and two kilograms of raw opium were confiscated from them, the source said. (Asia-Plus)

(20) Taliban Shadow ...

resident of southern Urozgan province, Hamid S/O Niaz Mohammad a resident of Dai Kundi District, Saad Mohammad S/o Haji, Jalal S/O Kamal, Zia S/O Khudaidad who were involved in several clashes and planting landmines.

Military suits, pistols and other terrorist materials were seized with the arrested group of terrorists, the statement adds. (KP)

(21) Taliban Shadow...

Alingar district when Afghan security forces' convoy came under militants' attack, a statement from the 201st Selab Military Corps said. Elsewhere, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) had detained the Taliban shadow district chief along with his six associates in southern Ghazni province, the spy service said in a statement.

Bismillah, known as Taib was the Taliban's shadowy chief for Arjistan district and was nabbed during a clearing operation, the statement added. (Pajhwok)

(22) Afghan ...

front of 15 other students. "The victim died a little later at the scene," the statement added.

The main motive behind the incident is not clear so far and it has been reported that the two had allegedly argued during an earlier break.

The Afghan students were reportedly attending special classes aimed to help young refugees improve their German. (KP)

(23) Policeman Among ...

chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the wounded policemen were stated to be in stable condition.

In central Kapisa province, Police Chief Brig. Gen. Khwaja Faqir Ahmad Saddiqui said three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers wounded in an explosion.

In southern Zabol province, four militants had been killed in a clean-up operation by security forces, provincial Police Chief, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Lewanai, said. A huge arms cache had also been recovered by security forces from Shehr-e-Sufa district, he added.

However, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claimed killing over 10 security personnel in different parts of Zabol province. (Pajhwok)

(24) CRDSA Distributes...

training organized jointly by the agriculture, refugees and work and social affairs departments.

Juma Gul, one of the trainees, said: "We learned much more about protection, feeding and health of goats during our three months training." (Pajhwok)

(25) Construction ...

would make people's access to the district centre by crossing over the large watercourse. (Pajhwok)

(26) Mine Planter ...

According to the media office of the police headquarters of Baghlan province the person died in the explosion was responsible for the recent explosion in Pul-i-Khumri that left four people dead and five others wounded.

Same tactic was used in that explosion. The explosive materials were placed on a motorcycle and parked closed to the old provincial jail, a

busy part of the city of Pul-i-Khumri. (KP)

(27) World Powers...

Iran's ally Russia abstained in the vote, but did not veto it, allowing the other 14 members of the council to pass the resolution.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, addressing reporters in Madrid, said world powers should instead back Tehran's peace plan.

This could lead, he argued, "to the formation of a government in Yemen that represents a broadly based community."

The Huthis, drawn from Yemen's Shiite Zaidi minority, stormed Sanaa in September 2014, sweeping south from their highland stronghold.

Undaunted by the Saudi bombardment, they have since seized swathes of the country, bringing intense fighting to the port city of Aden.

The air campaign was launched by Saudi Arabia and a coalition of five Gulf monarchies plus Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Sudan.

The UN resolution puts Huthi leader Abdulmalik al-Huthi and ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh's eldest son, Ahmed, on a sanctions list.

They are now under a global travel ban and member states are required to freeze any assets.

The Huthis have allied with troops still loyal to Saleh, who was forced from power in 2012 following a year of nationwide protests. (AFP)

(28) Tajikistan is ...

and tighter immigration controls in many remittance source countries. In line with the expected global economic recovery next year, the global flows of remittances are expected to accelerate by 4.1 percent in 2016, to reach an estimated \$610 billion, rising to \$636 billion in 2017.

Remittance flows to developing countries are expected to recover in 2016 to reach \$459 billion, rising to \$479 billion in 2017. The top five migrant destination countries continue to be the United States, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The top five remittance recipient countries, in terms of value of remittances, continue to be India, China, Philippines, Mexico and Nigeria.

In a special analysis on leveraging migration for financing development, the Brief estimates that as much as \$100 billion in migrant savings could be raised annually by developing countries by reducing remittance costs and migrant recruitment costs, and mobilizing Diaspora savings and philanthropic contributions from migrants.

Future inflows of remittances can be used as collateral to facilitate international borrowings by national banks in developing countries. Remittances can also facilitate access to international capital markets by improving sovereign ratings and debt sustainability of recipient countries.

Because remittances are large and more stable than many other types of capital flows, they can greatly enhance the recipient country's sovereign credit rating, thus lowering borrowing costs and lengthening debt maturity, says the Brief. In a recent development, rating agencies have started accounting for remittances in country credit ratings, but given data difficulties, there is still room for further improvement.

Remittances to developing countries in the Europe and Central Asia region will continue to decline sharply for a second consecutive year in 2015. Inflows are expected to total \$42 million this year, a decrease of 12.7 percent over 2014 when remittances declined by 6.3 percent. The economic contraction in Russia, a major remittance source country, has resulted in migrant job losses while the depreciation of the ruble has reduced the real incomes of migrant workers in Russia and reduced the value of remittances in US dollar terms. Central Asian countries are the hardest hit, due to their heavy dependency on remittances from Russia. In 2014, remittances to Ukraine contracted by 27 percent, to Uzbekistan by 16 percent, Armenia 11 percent and Tajikistan 8 percent, with dramatic declines occurring in the fourth quarter of the year. Tajikistan is the world's most remittance dependent country, with remittances constituting 49 percent of GDP in 2013. Inflows to the region are expected to recover to \$45 billion in 2016 and \$48 billion in 2017. (Asia Plus)