

(1) McMaster...

Afghanistan on the basis of which the US will outline its long term program for Afghanistan. While in Kabul, McMaster also reiterated Washington's commitment to cooperating with Afghanistan.

The other important message conveyed by McMaster was that the U.S will not allow Afghanistan to become a safe haven for terrorists.

"The main point on which the two sides agreed was on the resolve of Afghanistan and the United States in their war against terrorism, and detailed discussions were held in this respect," said presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazawi.

Meanwhile, a number of political experts stressed the need for continued financial and military aid to Afghan security forces and for the need to hit terrorist hide-outs and safe havens.

(2) IEC Rejects ...

not only in limited areas. Technology must be used in all aspects of the process including the voter lists, vote counting process, voting process and the results of elections, therefore we shared our reservations with them," said Sayad.

Meanwhile, the CEO's office has reiterated its call for the revival of public trust in the elections.

"The commission will conduct its job and will share the results of its work, but this is not final, ... later a final decision will be taken about it," said the CEO's deputy spokesman Jawed Faisal. "It resolves one part of the problem which is related to the voter lists, but it cannot resolve other parts such as interference in the election process, vote counting process and election results," said Mohammad Yousuf Rashid, chairman of Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan (FEFA). (Tolonews)

(3) Afghansat...

connectivity. However, Afghansat-1 has not turned a profit and was only able to cover its costs last year. "The satellite is active and offers services. It does not generate an income and also does not have extra expenses," Najib Nangialay, MoCIT spokesman said.

The satellite is supposed to deliver full national coverage and provide extensive reach of Central Asia and the Middle East, under the multi-year agreement. However, unconfirmed reports indicate that currently part of the satellite service is inactive.

A number of tech experts meanwhile said government has not done anything to promote the services and that MoCIT does not have any plans to expand the service. "Government does not have a good plan in place to use Afghansat and that is why Afghansat is not generating more revenue," said Sadeya, a technology analyst.

According to the ministry, Afghanistan will use the services up to 2021. (Tolonews)

(4) 'President ...

did not introduce candidates for the important posts, he is politically playing with parliament," he said.

"The continuation of acting culture is clearly a violation of law, an issue that must be addressed," Hamayon stressed without going into details. He said the majority of acting ministers were misbehaving with people's representatives and calling themselves unaccountable to the parliament.

"We once again ask our dear president to introduce nominees for vacant ministries to the Wolosi Jirga for a vote of confidence because not introducing the candidates will bring under

question the legal position of this house," he said.

"If the candidates are not introduced, then this government should be labeled a dictatorship, not democratically elected regime," he said.

Saleh Mohammad Haqjo, a lawmaker from western Herat province, also said the acting ministers did not treat people's representatives well. He accused acting officials of misusing their authority and considering themselves immune from accountability.

The lawmaker also asked the government leaders to put the acting culture to an end and introduce the ministers-designate as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pakistan, ...

On relations with India, the Prime Minister reiterated his firm conviction on sustained dialogue and meaningful engagement as the only way forward to resolve all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, including the Kashmir dispute.

He welcomed President Trump's willingness to help India and Pakistan resolve their differences particularly on Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the US National Security Adviser met with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and renewed the commitment of the new administration to work closely with Pakistan in strengthening mutually beneficial relations and towards the shared objectives of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region, a foreign ministry statement said.

Conveying Pakistan's concerns over the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, Adviser Sartaj Aziz reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work with the international community to support efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Adviser also highlighted the importance of effective border management as part of the actions required to achieve sustainable peace in the region.

General McMaster also met with his Pakistani counterpart Nasser Khan Janjua and Pakistan military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. He is visiting Pakistan after completing his visit to Afghanistan. (IRNA)

(6) Ongoing ...

to foster its position on the issue.

NRSC officials said their research was yet to be completed as studies on the issue were ongoing.

The center presented its research to a large number of education and training faculty students of the Nangarhar University.

The students said such presentations were useful for students in quenching their thirst for knowledge. He said such programs should be continuously arranged in future.

Gulali, a student who attended the conference, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Afghans historically believed the Durand Line was imposed on them.

The NRSC said the government should collect documents and information about non-recognition of the Durand Line and share them with the United Nations.

It said a fundamental solution to the disputed border would help improve security in Afghanistan and prevent the Pashtuns on both sides of the border from division.

The Durand Line is a 2,640 kilometers border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, but the Afghan government and tribes on the line do not recognize it while Pakistan says it is a settled matter. (Pajhwok)

(7) Over 13M...

The FEC data suggest much of the money came from sales of Trump-branded merchandise such as T-shirts and red hats at Trump's inauguration in January.

The three Trump committees spent roughly 4.7 million dollars on Trump-branded hats,

T-shirts, mugs and stickers, according to a Politico report.

The Republican National Committee says it raised another 41.3 million dollars in the first three months of the year, but as of Sunday, it had yet to file its final FEC report of the quarter. (Xinhua)

(8) No Military ...

"The US measure in Afghanistan doesn't have any military justification and meaning," he added.

Friday saw global audiences awaking to news the US military had dropped a GBU-43/B MOAB against what it called the ISIL position in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

The Thursday event marked the use of the weapon on the battlefield for the first time in history.

The bomb is nicknamed the Mother of All Bombs for its 11-tonne blast yield and it is worth \$16 million. (FNA)

(9) Afghanistan ...

to servicing of Russian-made helicopters, which Afghanistan's Armed Forces are using. "We have asked Russia to provide service for Russian-made aircraft, helicopters in Afghanistan," he said.

Head of Afghanistan's delegation said the cooperation with Russia in the military-technical sphere was affected by the Western sanctions.

"The anti-Russian sanctions have affected the support Russia provided in servicing the Russian equipment, especially helicopters," he said.

"This is why we are interested in seeing settlement of the problems between Russia and the US and hail the statements both sides made after the meeting of foreign affairs' heads - Sergei Lavrov and Rex Tillerson."

Haidari said it would favor not only Afghanistan, but also would add to effectiveness of fighting the terrorist groups of the ISIL and Al-Qaeda, which are active in Afghanistan. (FNA)

(10) Businesswomen...

Afghan businesswoman who has invested in a company that polishes gemstones and produces carpets.

She says that the investment was aimed to hire female workers, train them and produce quality products for local markets.

"The lack of access to marketing is one of the biggest problems for us, because we cannot sell our products on the local markets," she said.

Rahima has hired over 70 female workers at her company where they work in different fields such as polishing of the gemstones, carpet weaving and cosmetics.

These women have said they have learnt many skills over a short period of time while at Rahima's company.

"Our expectation is that with government help we can build more companies so that women can work and earn money for their children," said one of the employees, Farishta.

"I also work at home, I take orders and weave carpets and then sell them to the market," said another worker, Belqis.

The lack of access for women to loans, the lack of proper market places for women to sell their products and the lack of infrastructure are among key issues businesswomen in Afghanistan face. (Tolonews)

(11) Ghani Accused ...

decision contradicts article 90 and article 40 of the constitution and we reject it; if government has such a plan, it should merge it in the draft budget for 1397 (2018)," parliament's first deputy speaker Nazir Ahmad Hanafi said.

Naderi meanwhile said that at least 23 government institutions have already sent through construction project plans for them to work on. (Tolonews)

(12) Pakistan

every initiative to establish peace in Afghanistan, he add-

ed. He said peace in Afghanistan could not be maintained through military action.

Replying to a question, he said India was involved in spreading terrorism and financing terror activities in the country. The spokesman said Indian subversive designs against Pakistan had been exposed after the trial of Kulbhushan Jadhav. He said Indian barbaric activities against innocent Kashmiris in the Occupied Kashmir had also been exposed to the world. (APP)

(13) MoAB ...

been restored about the seriousness of the will for fighting terrorism," Abdullah said.

"Anyone who rises in arm against the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and joins militant groups to target our people is the enemy of Afghanistan," he said.

He appreciated the Afghan forces' performance on the battleground and asked their leadership to address security forces' problems.

Abdullah commented on the massive blast days after former president Hamid Karzai strongly condemned the MOAB attack and said the US had violated Afghanistan's sovereignty and insulted the honor of Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(14) Refugee Elders...

He quoted the refugees' elders as saying that since they had been living here for more than three decades, they had developed relationships with locals through inter-marriages and they might be considered for citizenship.

The refugees, against whom there were no complaints of misconduct or crime, should be considered for citizenship, the elders argued.

The new border management system was introduced after the killing of two Rangers personnel in the border town of Torkham. The system had helped check the movement of militants, he claimed. (Pajhwok)

(15) Ring Construction

complete in coming twelve months.

The length of the road is 4.8 kilometers and will have four lanes of 24 meters.

The project also includes construction of 31 culverts along the road as well as a bridge which will have a length of 20 meters, the officials said.

The provincial government also plans to build two more bridges with each having a length 200 meters, the officials said, adding that the design work of the bridges has been completed and the construction work will kick off soon.

The provincial governor Abdul Jabar Naeemi and some other senior officials had also attended the inauguration work of the road construction.

The officials are optimistic that the road once built will help in boosting the economy of the province besides providing facilities for the Laghman residents. (KP)

(16) Andarabi ...

team has found that he is accused of embezzlement and misuse of authorities and we have sent his case to the ACJC court," Jamshid Rasuli, AGO spokesman said.

This comes after Kamran Alizay, head of Herat's provincial council, who was sentenced to two and a half years in prison by the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center's (ACJC) primary court two weeks ago, handed himself over to Herat police on Sunday - a move welcomed by the AGO.

"He has referred to intelligence department and has come under the legal umbrella. The law will be implemented, and no one is above the law," Rasuli said.

According to Rasuli, another case, involving Abdul Rahman Sarjang, the former police chief of southern Helmand province, is also under investigation. Sarjang was accused 10 months

ago of misuse of authority, promulgating the existence of ghost soldiers under his command and poor war management.

A number of Parliament Members (MPs) and Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) officials meanwhile said powerful men have influence over government departments and that government is unable to punish these people.

"Corruption cases are not being investigated by the attorney general's office and are not being sent to court. This decreases people's trust in anti-corruption departments and also corrupt people use this situation for their own benefit," Khalid Pashton, an MP, said. "There is not political will to fight corruption and that has resulted in the anti-corruption department not being accountable," said Ikram Afzali, executive director of IWA.

The case of Zmarai Paikan, the former commander of Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF), who lost his job a few months ago, is also under investigation by the AGO. This came after reports emerged of his possible involvement in a murder his son allegedly committed. (Tolonews)

(17) Around 2,000...

to manufacture Improvised Explosive Devices which are mainly used in roadside bombings.

Roadside bombings are considered as the main cause of the casualties of the security forces, government employees, and the ordinary civilians.

This comes as the Afghan forces on Saturday foiled a plot by the anti-government armed militants to launch rockets on Kabul city.

At least ten rockets prepared for the attack was discovered and confiscated from the Khake-Jabar district of Kabul before the militants manage to fire them on the city.

The latest developments comes as the anti-government armed militants are attempting to destabilize the key cities of the country including capital Kabul, a move which the insurgents often adopt as the weather gets warm. (KP)

(18) Protesters Slam...

first time the enormous conventional bomb has been used in combat.

Although President Ashraf Ghani supported the move, many Afghan officials condemned the attack, slamming the US for using their country as a testing ground for new and dangerous weapons. (Press TV)

(19) 3 Women, ...

killing civilians, accusing the security forces of firing the mortar shells into the houses. The group claimed seven civilians, including children. But security officials rejected the Taliban version. (Pajhwok)

(20) 4 Mine...

to the officials, the Afghan security forces are currently busy in a counter-terrorism operation in various parts of Helmand, including Nawa and Marjah.

The operations were launched several days ago as the security officials are saying that the clearance operations are being conducted as part of the Khalid operations.

Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other militant groups frequently use Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to target the security forces and government officials. The incident took place hours before the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its annual civilian casualties report for the year 2016.

The UN mission said it documented 11,418 civilian casualties between 1st January 2016 to 31st December, 2016.

According to the report, 61 percent of all civilian casualties were incurred through attacks by the anti-government elements which includes a total of 6,994 civilian casualties (2,131 deaths and 4,863 injured). (KP)

(21) Rashid Looks...

Raina, Aaron Finch and Brendon McCullum.

The match will start Monday (March 17) at 7pm Kabul time at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Hyderabad. The match will be broadcast live on Lemar TV. (Tolonews)

(22) Constitutional ...

Naysayers were protesting against the result in different districts of Istanbul on Sunday night, with some banging pots and pans from their windows and others holding a march. (Xinhua)

(23) S. Korea, U.S....

achieve the denuclearized Korean Peninsula through peaceful means.

The U.S. vice president, however, said "all options are on the table" though the U.S. wants peaceful means for the denuclearization of the peninsula.

Citing two nuclear tests and multiple ballistic missile test-launches the DPRK conducted in the past 18 months, he said the "era of strategic patience is over" on the DPRK.

The strategic patience refers to a U.S. policy on the DPRK advocated by the previous Obama administration.

Pyongyang carried out its fourth and fifth nuclear detonations in January and September last year respectively. After the January atomic bomb test, the country launched a long-range rocket that put a satellite into orbit. (Xinhua)

(24) Japan PM ...

exchange views on North Korea with Russian President Vladimir Putin when they hold a summit meeting later this month.

He also said the government was considering measures to respond to contingencies stemming from a potential crisis on the Korean peninsula, including floods of refugees and how to evacuate Japanese citizens from South Korea. (Reuters)

Blast Site 'Off-Limits' To Everyone Except U.S Forces

KABUL - Four days after the U.S dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb on Achin district in Nangarhar, the U.S still has the blast site under lock down - barring access to all including Afghan security forces. Reporting from the area, TOLONews journalist Karim Amini said only U.S Forces are allowed in to Assadkhil village in Mohmand Dara area where the "Mother of All Bombs" was dropped on Thursday night.

Amini reported that the area is sealed off to everyone, including Afghan military and the press. Amini also reported that Daesh is still active in parts of Mohmand Dara, especially near the Durand Line, where they are firing off rockets at Afghan security forces.

Eastern Nangarhar police department meanwhile refused to comment on why the area has not been cleared of Daesh and why the security forces have been barred from entering the village. Police said however they will not allow Daesh to return to the area.

"An operation is ongoing, successfully, to completely eliminate the enemy," Nangarhar police chief, Abdul Rahman Rahimi said. A member of Nangarhar provincial council meanwhile said Afghan security forces are trying to clear roads in the region that were closed due to insurgent activity.

"We urge government and charity organizations to support the displaced families and help them return to their villages," a council member, Mehrabuddin said.

Meanwhile, Achin residents who fled to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, said they are worried that Daesh may return to the villages and urged government to maintain security.

"You know that the people's houses have been destroyed and people have been subjected to cruelty," said Hamidullah, a resident of Achin. (Tolonews)