

**(1) HEC Approves...**

dry ports should have facilities like car parking areas, warehouses, loading, unloading, customs offices, transport, cold storages and other related facilities.

The meeting then discussed a joint report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Mines and Industry Chamber about marble industry in Afghanistan. After discussion, the meeting approved the strategy on marble industry with the conditions that clear technical standards should be observed and firms which maintained high standard should be relaxed in term of taxes.

The president said the unity government welcomed investments, however their types and effectiveness should be identified. According to preliminary estimates, Afghanistan holds marble deposits worth \$150 billion and 25 extraction and 108 processing companies are engaged in the sector.

The HEC meeting decided to grant the contract for extraction and processing of marble stones to Natural Sang Processing Company after discussing in detail the company's policy. The company will invest \$15 million in the sector. (Pajhwok)

**(2) IEC Urges...**

to maintain security of the center was killed.

"In Baghbanan village there is a school named Baghbanan School where a voter registration center is located. Taliban has fired five rockets on the village. One of them hit the school and killed one person," Faiz Mohammad Mirza Zada, Badghis governor deputy, said.

IEC officials said these attacks are worrying.

"Security forces should do their jobs better to ensure the safety of voter registration centers, the people and voter registration employees," the IEC financial and administrative deputy Maazullah Dawlati said.

The Interior Ministry's deputy spokesman Nusrat Rahimi meanwhile said they will leave no stone unturned to ensure the safety of the process.

"All relevant departments have been ordered to use all their equipment and resources to maintain security of voter registration centers," Rahimi told TOLONews.

No group has claimed responsibility for recent attacks on voter registration centers. (Tolo News)

**(3) Local Firm...**

working in the company has changed their lives.

"This is a good work. Employment opportunity has been provided for people and I also work here," Naqibullah, a worker said.

Musa Khan, 55, said he used to cultivate poppy on his fields and that he has left the illegal practice right now.

"We work here and earn legal money. Our income is good and we are happy for working here," Musa Khan said. (Tolo News)

**(4) 24 Taliban...**

in the overnight clash, said Pana, who accused the government of negligence when it came to rebel attacks in the province.

On the other hand, Abdul Karim Yourash, provincial police spokesman, said that Taliban militants stormed uprising members' checkpoints in Qarish locality of the Dawlatabad district on Wednesday night.

He said 15 Taliban militants were killed and five others wounded during the nighttime attack. Security forces and civilians suffered no casualties, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Results of Pakistan...**

Peace Council's deputy chief Mo-

hammad Haidari meanwhile said a trilateral meeting will be held among religious scholars from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia's in Jakarta in the near future.

Haidari said Pakistan has not clearly responded about its attendance in this meeting.

"Afghanistan and Indonesia are completely ready to hold this meeting soon. Indonesia will host the meeting, but Pakistan so far has not responded to us clearly. Pakistan has said that it will announce its stance in the coming week," said Haidari.

Some Afghan MPs meanwhile claimed Pakistan is not in favor of peace in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan does not want security in Afghanistan. If Pakistan sends its religious scholars, I think they will not be independent," said Mahmoud Sulaimankhail, an Afghan MP.

"They (Pakistanis) know that if they lose the weapon of religion through Ulema (religious scholars), they will not be able to continue their combat and they will have to respond about their past (fights)," another lawmaker Assadullah Saadati said.

Abbasi visited Afghanistan on April 6. He held talks with Afghan government leaders.

During the visit, President Ashraf Ghani and Abbasi agreed to seven key principles to finalize Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS).

Following the Afghan government's peace offer to the Taliban, it was the second time that Pakistan's high officials visited Kabul and talked with government leaders.

Before Abbasi's visit, Pakistan's National Security Adviser Nasser Khan Janjua paid a visit to Kabul. (Tolo news)

**(6) Hundreds Donate...**

Inamullah Miakhel, provincial health department spokesman, thanked teachers, students and police who took part in the blood donation. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Growing Insecurity...**

registration centers could not be established as yet in districts due to security problems. "The situation persists, the elections will be held in a few areas and it will allow the powerful individuals to stuff ballot boxes."

Similarly, a resident of Qarah Bagh district, Rahmatullah, said the government should set up voter registration centers in secure areas of the district. "If there is no security, we may not take part in the elections," he said, but did not elaborate.

The governor's spokesman, Arifullah Noori, acknowledged terrorist attacks had increased in Ghazni City, but argued in overall the situation had improved as compared to the past. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Mail to Roll out...**

They said the only solution to the water shortage is to bring water resources under control.

But farmers, in various regions around Afghanistan, have hit back at government's claims of improving water resources in the country.

"We have dry lands up there. They need water to become productive. We need government and agriculture ministry's help in this regard," said Hajji Gulbuddin, a farmer in the outskirts of Kabul.

"A proper irrigation system should be established for our lands in order to prevent waste of water as we use traditional systems right now. We need government's help in this respect," said Aand Agha, a farmer.

Farmers say that systematic irrigation has a significant role in the increase of agricultural products,

suggesting government should help revive the irrigation system and support farmers to get access to modern irrigation systems. (Tolo news)

**(9) Qanooni Claims...**

European Union in total," added Qanooni.

According to Qanooni, Pakistan first strongly reacted to the removal of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, but later gave in and set four conditions.

He said Pakistan was afraid its stance would threaten its relations with the US and would push the country towards isolation.

"Pakistanis had said that the coming of the United Front in Kabul is like the coming of India to Kabul and we will not tolerate the United Front, secondly the coming of the United Front to Kabul should be prevented robustly, thirdly, in the south, a new front must be created as an alternative to the Taliban," he said.

"The expectations we had, the commitments and the guarantee we had, most of them have not been completed," said Amina Afzali, who attended the Bonn Conference.

Qanooni believes that the Bonn Conference on Afghanistan opened a new chapter in Afghanistan's history.

He also accused Pakistan of using its influence to try to disrupt the Bonn Conference.

If the Bonn Conference failed, Afghanistan would once again move towards civil war, he said.

After the Taliban government was toppled in Afghanistan, in December 2001, the German city of Bonn hosted a conference of Afghan leaders at Hotel Petersburg, to choose the leader of an Afghan Interim Authority - widely known as the Bonn Conference.

The Conference chose Hamid Karzai, who was subsequently elected President in 2004. Karzai in turn appointed many of the anti-Taliban allies and regional leaders to senior posts within the interim government, or to senior posts in the provincial governments. (Tolo news)

**(10) Islamabad Disputes...**

The embassy said Pakistan would further facilitate Afghan agro-products and for this purpose had requested an immediate meeting between departments of plant protection of the two countries.

However, Pakistan has serious concerns on agro-products originating from regional countries but being exported as Afghan exports to Pakistan thus necessitating phytosanitary checks on these goods including cotton. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Political Parties...**

for voter registration process.

"In the first days of our work, we will travel to different districts in order to raise public awareness on elections," said Musawir, representative of National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan.

"These important and national parties of Afghanistan have agreed on implementation of national projects, overcoming unemployment and insecurity.

Hopefully, the consensus of political parties will improve in the province in near future," said Samiullah Saihoon, representative of National Congress of Afghanistan. Members of the council said another goal of their movement is to create an environment of tolerance and unity among the people to overcome challenges on the ground.

This comes after head of the provincial office of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Hamidullah Baluch said on Tuesday that of the 322 voter registra-

tion centers, 47 centers are closed and over 40 others face threats.

"Twenty (voter registration) centers are closed in one district and 27 centers have remained closed in another two districts which have fallen (to insurgents). And 13 centers which are under high and medium threats require military operations," he said. "We are prepared to carry out the process in the other 232 centers."

Badakhshan police however vowed to ensure the safety of all centers in the province. (Tolo news)

**(12) Voter's Registration...**

visiting the concerned office due to insecurity in their areas," said Nazir Nasrat, Independent Election Commission (operations) chief for Ghor.

He said the census department had no office outside Ferozkoh, the provincial capital and this was why people in villages were unable to obtain paper ID cards. "This situation has created huge problems for our work," the election official said.

Women in Ghor province are yet to register to vote because they don't have the ID cards, said Hajira Bashir, the provincial women's affairs director. She no one in villages and remote parts had been issued ID cards. She said people in remote areas could not travel to the provincial capital to apply for the ID cards due to insecurity.

However, Ghor census department head Khudadad Hamkar said 80 people had been appointed and divided into groups to work as mobile and distribute the ID cards to people.

"But so far we have not received the required materials from the center. Still I hope the process would be launched soon." (Pajhwok)

**(13) Hpc Will Not Negotiate...**

With Daesh, Foreign Fighters security agencies' statistics, currently, in addition to the Taliban, at least 20 groups of foreign fighters are active in the country and are supported by some groups from outside the country. (Tolo News)

**(14) Afghanistan Send...**

India for Training in 1st Batch Mangal said if the players failed to satisfy their mentors, they would be given a second chance. He said those sent India had been part of the national side and local clubs.

"We are doing this to give new talent the chance to play in the national side and to have much preparation for the 2019 World Cup." The former captain said 20 to 24 players were required for all departments of the game in the national side to be picked for the mega event. (Pajhwok)

**(15) 68 Militants Killed...**

Coordinated Air, Ground Operations

Local sources said the Taliban after overrunning the post, killed commanders Khair Mohammad and Aziz and took away three others with them.

The Taliban have so far said nothing in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Jawzjan Activists...**

between government forces and the Taliban in the province. The peace campaign was launched after a deadly attack in Helmand claimed dozens of lives.

People across Afghanistan recently expressed their support of the Helmand protesters - including lawmakers in the country's parliament. (Tolo news)

**(17) Afghan Govt...**

many significant Islamic monuments have survived.

According to UNESCO, Herat city is thought to have been established around 500 BC as the ancient Per-

sian town of Artacoana or Aria.

Captured by Alexander the Great in 330 BC during his war against the Achaemenids, the town was developed and a citadel built. After destruction at the hands of both the Mongols and Genghis Khan, Herat saw something of a renaissance in the late 14th and 15th century AD.

One of the oldest extant structures in the historic core of Herat is Qala Ikhtyaruddin, built on the site of the ancient citadel.

The layout of battlements and towers that survive is thought to date from the early 14th century AD, when the Karts re-built a fortress that had been destroyed by the Mongols.

Perhaps the largest historic architectural ensemble that survives in the region today is the Musalla complex, built in the early 15th century under the direction of Queen Gawharshad. The complex, which has been described as "the most beautiful example in color in architecture ever devised by man to the glory of his God and himself" today comprises a mosque, the mausoleum of Gawharshad, five minarets and the remains of the madrasa of Hussein Baiqara. Although damaged during the war in the early 1990s, the mausoleum of Gawharshad retains its ribbed tiled dome, which is set above a high drum covered in tiled decoration, both with Koranic inscriptions and abstract patterns.

Another important part of the surviving architectural heritage in Herat is the mausoleum complex of Khwaja Abdulla Ansari in Gozargah, which dates from the Timurid period. (Tolo news)

### OSCE Consulting Turkmenistan in Use of Solar Energy

ASHGABAT - The development of a road map on solar energy in Turkmenistan was the focus of an OSCE-supported discussion in Ashgabat for officials from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Institute of Solar Energy of the Academy of Science of Turkmenistan, the State Committee for Environment Protection and Land Resources, professors from the Mary Turkmen State Energy Institute and representatives of other relevant institutions and nature protection public organizations.

Organized by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat in co-operation with the Mary Turkmen State Energy Institute, the event brought participants together to discuss the draft outline of the road map and develop ideas for its future elaboration.

"Today's roundtable discussion is a very important step towards strengthening a national dialogue and inter-agency communication in the renewable energy sector," said Ambassador Natalya Drozd, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. "While national authorities are taking the lead in the development of the road map, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat stands ready to share best standards and practices from across the OSCE region and provide any other support within its mandate."

During the roundtable discussion, national experts provided an overview of the development of renewable energy in Turkmenistan and discussed the draft road map from the perspective of government priorities. The OSCE Centre plans to continue providing support in this area. The support would focus on finalizing the road map and facilitating the dialogue with other OSCE participating States on international technologies and best practices of public-private partnerships in alternative energy projects. (Trend)