

(1) Afghan Govt...

Afghan leaders along with @US4AfghanPeace, @USAmbKabul, and @Commander_RS. Our discussions were focused on the peace efforts, including the next steps in the process, in order to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned in strongest terms the terrorist attacks on churches, hotels and worshippers in Sri Lanka.

The ministry expressed sympathy with the people and government of Sri Lanka said the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan wished patience for the families of the victims and quick recovery for the wounded. "We stand firm by the side of Sri Lanka."

Sari Lankan police spokesman Gunasekera told a press conference that three people had been arrested in connection with the attacks that also killed dozens of foreigners. Gunasekera said the police were investigating whether suicide bombers were involved in all of the blasts.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks in a country which was at war for decades with Tamil separatists until 2009 during which bomb blasts in the capital were common. (Pajhwok)

(2) Govt to Lose...

implementation,"

The source said that the candidates did not agree on the formation of any interim government. "Recent rumors and statements regarding candidates' agreement on creating an interim government are false and it is not our stance," the source added.

"We once again make clear we don't support the creation of an interim government, but we can't tolerate the continuation of an illegal and illegitimate administration.

"Therefore, we will soon announce an alternative plan and the relevant details at a press conference," the statement added.

Earlier, the Presidential Palace had said that President Ashraf Ghani would remain in office until the results of the next presidential election were announced. The presidential vote is scheduled for September 28. Ashraf Ghani is among 18 candidates running for the presidency. (Pajhwok)

(3) NSA Vows...

Corruption and corrupt people are also the enemies of Afghanistan and they would be punished, according to the NSA, "It's an honour for me that the Afghan security forces defend Afghanistan's sovereignty."

Security officials shared their achievements, challenges and issues with the NSA, who was also briefed on the security situation. The Zafar Military Corps officials said the militants had failed in their sinister designs and the security forces had prevented their activities in the process. (Pajhwok)

(4) 3 Taliban...

as Janat Gul, Haji Gul, and Zabiullah, the 201st Silab Corps said, adding that 5 militants were also wounded during the same operations.

The 201st Silab Corps also added that the security personnel and civilians did not suffer casualties during the clashes. (KP)

(5) Ghani Says Govt...

don't have the courage to join a

unified front against the enemies of this country," Ghani added.

The president mentioned that no Afghan is in favor of the war.

"The people of Afghanistan see the system as their own. All the people of Afghanistan are in favor of the system... They are pro-system not against the system," Ghani reiterated. Ghani also hinted at the upcoming Grand Consultative Jirga on Peace - scheduled for April 29 - and said it will be a platform for Afghans to raise their voice and decide on their future. (Tolo News)

(6) NEPA Working...

climate change, NEPA is still a young institution and there is a need for more works to be done," NEPA Chairman Shah Zaman Maiwandi said.

The NEPA Deputy Chief Ezatulah Sediqi said: "22 ministries have been directed to make an action plan for reducing air pollution in Kabul city".

In 2017, President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree on the environmental law, stating any person found guilty of committing major pollution-related crimes can face between 16 and 20 years in prison. The law also reportedly states that if inspectors fail to enforce the law they can also face imprisonment or a fine of up to Afs60,000 while an offender, whose actions have led to the death of a person, can get the death penalty.

Members of the public and health experts have welcomed the enforcement of this law and said that the high levels of pollution, especially in Kabul, has resulted in a marked increase in illnesses. According to the Criminal Act, in relation to environmental crimes, Section 838 states that a person who deliberately disposes of toxic substances and waste, of mercury or other matter harmful to the public health's - especially in wells, water tanks, public storage facilities or other unauthorized sites - can be sentenced to prison. (Tolo news)

(7) New Parliament...

designate, three nominees as members of the Supreme Court and a candidate to head the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) would be introduced to the Parliament. (Pajhwok)

(8) Naghlu Dam...

Currently all four turbines of the dam in Sarobi district of Kabul have been operational, producing 100 megawatts per hour and 2,400 megawatts in 24 hours, it added.

According to the statement, the Naghlu hydropower dam has four turbines and each has the capacity to produce 25 megawatts. One of the turbines had been inactive for the last eight years and a second for two and a half years. (Pajhwok)

(9) Govt Accused...

Pressurising the apex court and getting its verdict in one's favour was against the constitution and national interest, they said, warning such efforts would bring the supremacy of the court under question.

They stressed the need for implementation and respect for the country's supreme law, under which the President Ghani's tenure would end on May 22.

But deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Mustafavi in a video message said the current government still had six months to work. (Pajhwok)

(10) OIC Strongly...

people of Afghanistan and wished for speedy recovery of the wounded.

The Secretary General reiterated the principled position of the OIC against all forms of terrorism and extremism. He, once again, repeated his call for international solidarity in the fight against the scourge of terrorism. (PR)

(11) Investigative Journalists...

did not implement the Access to Information Law," he said.

Tawhidi expressed concern and said investigative journalists sometimes could not complete their documentation of their report due to threats to their safety. Sayed Fazli Sancharaki, deputy information and culture minister, who was also present in the conference, said, "There is no doubt government's information sources have serious problems, but the government has strong will to keep people informed,"

He acknowledged government institutes lacked necessary capacity but said efforts were underway for modernizing and standardizing government's information sources.

"We have assessed 60 organs in the information sharing area and found only three or four of them were responsive, we shared our report with the Governance Committee and the Presidential Palace," he said.

On the other hand, Sancharaki said that lack of reporters' skills in extracting information was another problem and programs were needed to be launched for sharing and receiving information for media workers and government officers.

He said that some reports published by media were incomplete and created problems and journalists should avoid spreading misinformation. (Pajhwok)

(12) Lawrence to Play...

anything set for two years.'

During her break, Jennifer actually got engaged to art gallery director Cooke Maroney. (Tolo News)

(13) Poppy Cultivation...

In this way, people were encouraged not to grow poppy.

Shukran added the government implemented a poppy eradication drive every year but there was no plan this year.

He said another major problem was the lack of rehabilitation centres for drug addicts in the province. He demanded standard centres for the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Mohibullah, a farmer from Maiwand district, told Pajhwok Afghan News there were 360 Karez systems in the past but all of them had gone dry due to the drought and farmers had to dig deep wells -- an expensive option to address the problem.

He urged the government to revive the irrigation system and help growers find a profitable market for their agricultural produce. If supported, farmers would not cultivate poppy, he believed.

Noor Mohammad, another farmer from Shah Wali Kot district, held a similar view and said ordinary crops could not address economic issues of growers.

He demanded rehabilitation of the Dehli Dam, the main source of water supply for Kandahar.

Earlier, Governor Hayatullah Hayat told a gathering a strategy would be devised for parallel

work on local, regional and international levels to eradicate poppy cultivation, drug trafficking and smuggling.

A UNODC report shows that poppy was cultivated on 328 hectares land in 2017 when 900,000 tonnes of opium was produced.

It showed a 63 percent increase in poppy cultivation and 78 percent hike in production of drugs. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban's Shadow...

Police spokesman Mohammad Ibrahim Amini confirmed recovery of weapons and said a major terror attack was foiled by security forces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Indian, Australian...

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters the "Kolkata" had sailed through the Taiwan Strait to get to Qingdao, a sensitive waterway that separates China from self-ruled Taiwan, claimed by Beijing as sacred Chinese territory.

"We headed on a direct route and we are very happy that we were facilitated by the PLA Navy and they ensured that we had a safe passage to Qingdao," Hara said, when asked if they had sailed via the Taiwan Strait.

Australia, a close U.S. ally, has sent the "HMAS Melbourne" guided-missile frigate to Qingdao, though officials declined to make the captain available for interview.

China and Australia have sparred over Australian suspicions of Chinese interference in the country's politics and Australia's banning of China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd from supplying equipment for its planned 5G broadband network. (Reuters)

(16) US Ambassador...

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - Jews held a special Passover Seder with approximately 100 Jewish families from Israel, Europe, and the United States at the Warsaw Ghetto.

Poland was home to Europe's largest Jewish population before the 1939 occupation by Nazi Germany. The government has also been accused in the past of trying to rewrite history by banning any suggestion of Polish complicity in the Holocaust. (Fox News)

(17) Experts Call for

partner of China Creation Ventures, said that massive data in AI and robotics fields in China could give entrepreneurs and their projects an advantage, with more training data available.

The three-day summit, a student-run gathering to discuss development of China and the United States and their cooperation, kicked off at the University of Pennsylvania in the U.S. city of Philadelphia on Friday.

Geoffrey Garrett, dean of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, told Xinhua earlier that he thinks the Chinese strategy has been to take cutting edge technologies developed somewhere else and scale them up in China. "If innovation means turning ideas into outcomes at scale, China is certainly an innovation economy," Garrett said.

The Chinese government and the Chinese people tend to quickly adopt new technologies, which has facilitated technology application in China, Zhou said.

Li Zhen, chairman of Guoxuan High-Tech Power Energy Co. Ltd, said at the panel discussion that there is still a technological gap between China and the United

States, especially in fundamental research.

"The United States has very solid foundation for inventions, while China has the market driving force in application," Li said, urging the two countries to work together so as to go further in technology development. (Xinhua)

(18) UN Peacekeeper...

A peace agreement signed in 2015 by the Bamako government and armed groups was aimed at restoring stability. But the accord has failed to stop the violence.

Saturday's attack came as President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita pursued consultations to pick a new prime minister -- two days after the previous one, Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga, resigned with his entire cabinet, under fire from the ruling and opposition parties for failing to clamp down on the unrest.

Since their deployment in 2013, more than 190 peacekeepers have died in Mali, including nearly 120 killed by hostile action -- making MINUSMA the UN's deadliest peacekeeping operation, accounting for more than half of blue helmets killed globally in the past five years. (AFP)

(19) Japan PM Abe...

Abe, the host of this year's G20 summit, wants Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Japan for the first time as a national leader. (AFP)

(20) Macron Popularity...

in Monday's devastating fire.

The president vowed to rebuild the Paris landmark in just five years, a target some observers see as over ambitious.

The fire also prompted him to shelve a speech planned for Monday outlining his response to the "yellow vest" protests against social inequality that have shaken his young presidency.

With tax cuts and other major reforms expected to be announced, Macron is to hold the first ever formal press conference of his presidency on Thursday.

"Public opinion is in a major waiting position ahead of the presidential announcements," said Frederic Dabi, deputy director general of Ifop.

Other weekend polls made even less welcome reading for Macron, with an Opinionway poll published Saturday saying that just 27 percent of French were satisfied with his work, the weakest reading of his presidency.

But a BVA poll published Friday showed his popularity had ticked up three points to 32 percent. (AFP)

(21) 'Assaults on All...

An increasing number of international officials have joined in condemning the bloodiest act of violence that Sri Lanka has since the end of its civil war a decade ago. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which claimed over 150 lives and resulted in the hospitalization of at least 400. (RT)

(22) New Mayor...

"I want you to know that a new beginning is very valuable," he said. "The coming five years is not only five years for the mayor but also for 16 million people."

- Legal battle -

The loss of Istanbul was a major blow to Turkey's combative leader Erdogan who once said winning the city was like winning Turkey -- as his party and its political predecessors ruled the city for the past 25 years. (AFP)