

(1) Pompeo Pushes...

According to Presidential Palace, the Doha meeting was canceled on the disagreement of Qatari government with the Afghan delegation's formation.

The cancelation of the meeting met with strong reaction by Afghan critics and former Taliban members who called it "disappointing" and a "lost opportunity" towards peace in the war-ravaged Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(2) Administrative...

I hope we will realise our desire -- an end to war and establishment of peace," he remarked.

He termed the role of the Reconciliation Council vital in achieving the goal of peace and stability. The individuals desiring peace and those fuelling the conflict would be exposed, he said.

Two days back, Abdullah had strongly condemned a terrorist attack on the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology as an assault on state infrastructure.

Referring to insecurity, the CEO resented Taliban's announcement of the Al-Fatha operation, despite the spring offensive, the people insisted on peace and stability in the country. "Unfortunately, civilians were killed in an operation by the security personnel and NATO Commander Gen. Miller acknowledged the deaths. Miller also assured prevention of civilian casualties in future," he said.

A number of civilians were killed and wounded during a night raid in the Nirkh district of Maidan Wardak province three days back. (Pajhwok)

(3) Over 1000...

Officials say that Taliban insurgent group has increased their insurgency in order to gain more benefits at the negotiation table, adding that heavy casualties have been inflicted to the Taliban militants as well during the last one month.

"Recently during joint operations, we stand against the insurgents and increased our raids against the insurgents that had good results," said Nusrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Interior Affairs. "Peace efforts are underway, so the terrorists are trying to gain more benefit. We also increased our attacks and inflicted heavy casualties to them," said Zubair Aref, Deputy Spokesman to the Ministry of Defense.

Meanwhile, during the last one month, Afghan forces and Taliban militants have exchanged their control over Bala Murghab district in Badghis and Arghanj district in Badkhashan.

There were reports of casualties to the international forces in Afghanistan during the last one month as well. Reports suggest that at least five U.S. service members have been killed and three others injured in last one month in Afghanistan.

This comes as efforts are underway to accelerate direct peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban militant group but the insurgent group has refused to set with the government yet. (ATN)

(4) Iran, Pakistan...

at national and international levels. The latest development was the 16-day talks between US officials and Taliban members in Doha in mid-March in which the two sides agreed in draft on foreign forces withdrawal and counterterrorism assurances. (Tolo news)

(5) Terrorism Originates...

"Some of our neighbors send us terrorism, rockets, and bullets which finally leads to the martyrdom and disability of our youths, but some of our friends such as India contribute

in major economic and reconstruction projects including the establishment of dams, the construction of parliament building and solar energy projects for our people," Khalid reiterated.

The Indian Embassy in Kabul said in a press release that as part of the ongoing defense cooperation under the aegis of the strategic partnership between India Afghanistan, the Indian envoy presented 100 motorized wheelchairs to disabled Afghan soldiers.

In 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan and inaugurated the new building for Afghanistan's parliament and delivered a comprehensive speech on issues of common interests between the nations including bilateral ties, peace in Afghanistan and terrorism. Modi emphasized at the time that Afghanistan-India relations are of important strategic significance, saying that Indian involvement in the country not aimed to compete but to contribute.

After inaugurating the new building of Afghanistan's parliament, Indian Prime Minister Modi officially handed over three attack helicopters to Afghanistan, with the fourth still to be delivered - reaffirming New Delhi's military cooperation to Afghanistan in the future as well. India so far has contributed over \$2 billion in Afghanistan's reconstruction programs. (Tolo news)

(6) Khost Growers Voice...

to 140 farmers in Gurbaz district, which produced a satisfactory yield. Efforts were underway to promote saffron cultivation in the province, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Helmand Residents...

"We are calling for a ceasefire once again and we condemn both the (spring) operations," said a rally member.

Another Helmand resident said, "those women who have attended the rally have lost their sons either in pro-Taliban and anti-Taliban fights and they want a ceasefire as they have been tired of war".

The women, who attended the rally, carried photos of their loved ones who they have lost in the war and violence.

Sitara, a given name, a Helmand resident, said she lost her husband in a battle and that she has attended the rally to prevent her fate to other women.

"We have lost our loved ones. I have nothing but I have to grow my children," she said. (Tolo news)

(8) ACAA Wants...

Afghanistan's national airline Aryana was established 66 years ago and had regular flights to several European countries, including the UK and France before the Taliban regime.

But the national flag-carrier and other private airlines were banned from operating flights to European countries in the recent past due to their low standards. (Pajhwok)

(9) Afghan Activists...

the disagreement of Qatari government with the 250-member list proposed by the Afghan government as the Presidential Palace mentioned in a statement on April 16.

The meeting was scheduled for April 20.

Abdullah said that the Afghan people and the government are ready to use any opportunity for peace.

"Unfortunately, an opportunity which was created for dialogue in Qatar was interrupted due to mismanagement," Abdullah said.

Meanwhile, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke on April 20 with President Ashraf Ghani and

condemned the Taliban's recent announcement of a spring offensive and stressed the United States' solidarity with the Afghan people's pursuit of a comprehensive peace agreement that would end the suffering and destruction, the US Department of State says in a statement.

The Taliban announced their annual spring offensive on April 12, which comes as the Afghan and US politicians try to negotiate for a peace settlement with the militant group.

Pompeo also expressed the United States' disappointment that the intra-Afghan dialogue, planned for Doha, Qatar, had been postponed, the statement said.

The statement said that the Secretary encouraged all sides to seize the moment and reach an understanding on participants, so that an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue can be convened in Doha as soon as possible.

Haji Din Mohammad, member of the Reconciliation Leadership Council - which has been created by the Afghan government for consultations on peace - said that both sides, the Afghan government, and the Taliban, are blamed for the delay in the Doha meeting.

"One problem was that the event did not have the capacity of 269 delegates who were about to travel to Qatar. On the other hand, Qatar sent a list in which it removed all pro-Afghan government figures from it. There is a need for the presence of delegates of both sides (Afghan government and Taliban) when it comes to dialogue about peace," Mohammad explained.

A former Taliban member and head of Afghanistan Salvation Council, Sayed Akbar Agha, at a gathering in Kabul on Monday blamed the Afghan government for the cancellation of the Qatar meeting.

"Taliban says that they will not talk to it (the Afghan government) as a government, but you (the Afghan government) insist that the government of Afghanistan will lead the (Qatar) meeting," he said. (Tolo news)

(10) Extortion Issue...

the Torkham port and would result in hundreds of thousands of Afghanis losses to traders.

He said the drivers union was dismantled and goods carrying vehicles run in the name of different individuals and tribes were prevented. He said the move paved the ground for 4500 vehicles to proceed without restrictions and saved from 135 million to 150 million Afghanis of traders' revenue.

The governor said all vehicles stranded at the Torkham Township were allowed to proceed last night and no goods carrying vehicle remained at the border crossing.

Provincial council member Ajmal Omar said previously each vehicle had to pay unto 100,000 Pakistani rupees in bribe to proceed. He said government officials who were complicit in the corruption should be introduced to the attorneys.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar customs director Omar Momand said despite a five percent decline in trade activity during the ongoing fiscal year their revenue surged by 23.5 percent mainly due to anti-corruption measures and transparency in customs affairs. (Pajhwok)

(11) ACB Announces...

Chief Selector Dawlat Khan Ahmadzai said: "It has been a six-month preparation process for the World Cup. The mission is to play inspirational cricket in the tournament; I know there are strong teams but we will do our level best."

Ahmadzai remarked, "As chief selector, it is my duty to choose a com-

petitive team. However, there were some challenges that we needed to handle. We selected the best squad considering factors such as experience, fitness, team balance, current form and conditions."

On pacer Hamid Hassan's inclusion in the squad, Ahmadzai said, "Luckily for us, the comeback of the senior fast bowler is good news. However, we will take into account his form and fitness in practice matches."

Ahmadzai added that since the World Cup would be played on the league system, every team would play nine matches. Taking this into account, the young wicketkeeper batsman Ikram Alikhel has also been placed on the reserve list.

"The final decision has been made based on many facts and considerations. I would like to thank all those who continue to support our national heroes," the chief selector concluded.

Afghanistan will commence its ICC Cricket World Cup campaign against Australia on the first of June. (Pajhwok)

(12) 2 New Polio Cases...

in Helmand. He accused polio workers of not discharging their duties in a proper manner.

It is worth mentioning that the Taliban emphasised on polio drops to be administered in local mosques instead of conducting a door-to-door campaign. (Pajhwok)

(13) TV Actor Wins...

TV sitcom. Zelenskiy, a Russian speaker from central Ukraine has promised to step up efforts to re-integrate the east back into Ukraine's fold but has offered no details on how he is going to do that.

A political novice, 41-year-old Zelenskiy will also have to face off against Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has ruled his country for nearly two decades, if he wants to mend relations with Ukraine's neighbor.

Officials in Moscow on Monday sounded cautiously optimistic but also condescending about Zelenskiy's victory.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on his Facebook page on Monday morning that the election results in Ukraine show "there is a chance to improve the relations with our country after all."

Medvedev, whose government has been supplying the Ukrainian separatists with weapons and manpower, expressed hope that Zelenskiy would be "pragmatic and responsible" when tackling separatism in the east. (AP)

(14) Turkey Detains...

waged an insurgency for autonomy in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast since 1984, and is deemed a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said that nine people had been detained, adding that Kilicdaroglu's recent "contacts" with the Kurdish party (HDP) made him a target.

"CHP's contacts with the HDP, and HDP's policy that doesn't distance itself from the PKK are all happening before the public eye. Kilicdaroglu should have informed the authorities if he wanted to attend the funeral," Soylu told a new conference.

"It's wrong to blame the interior ministry for such incidents while partnering with the political arm of the PKK at the same time," Soylu added, saying Kilicdaroglu's party was trying to make political gains from the attack.

Kati Piri, the European Parliament's Turkey rapporteur, said heated political rhetoric had fueled the attack. "Likely inspired by hate speeches of

ruling politicians. This radical polarization must end," Piri said. (Reuters)

(15) Cambodian and...

The two leaders signed an agreement on operating the cross-border rail link.

Thailand helped fund Cambodia's rail line and will also hand over a train with four carriages.

Service between the two countries was suspended in the early 1970s when the track was destroyed during Cambodia's civil war. Only in the late 1990s was security completely restored with the defeat of the Cambodia's communist Khmer Rouge guerrilla army.

Restoration work in Cambodia has already been completed from Poipet to the northwestern province of Sisophon, which has rail service to the capital, Phnom Penh.

There are plans to eventually offer service to Phnom Penh from the Thai capital, Bangkok, but there is not yet a schedule for reopening that route. The connection would be integrated into regional plans to link most of mainland Southeast Asian from Kunming in southern China through what has been called the Southern Economic Corridor.

Hun Sen said at Monday's ceremony that the new rail connection would help develop both countries' economies, especially by connecting to the rest of the Southeast Asian region. (AP)

(16) Sudan Tensions...

calling for the "immediate opening of the roads and removal of the barricades" around the sit-in in Khartoum. It asked that other roads, closed by similar protests across the country, also be opened.

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which has led the protests, vowed to carry on with their sit-in. The umbrella of professional unions called for a march Tuesday and mass rallies on Thursday, when it plans to announce its own civilian transitional council in a challenge to the military.

Large crowds gathered outside the military headquarters overnight, singing and dancing as protest leaders delivered fiery speeches. Qurashi Diefallah, a protester, said the army is "just an extension of the regime, which stole 30 years from us."

The organizers on Sunday suspended talks with the military council, saying it had failed to meet their demands for an immediate transfer to a civilian government.

Spokesman Mohammed al-Amin Abdel Aziz said the military council "is delaying its response to our proposals, saying that they are considering proposals from all political forces," he said. That has raised fears among the protesters that Islamists and other factions close to al-Bashir, who is now jailed in Khartoum, will have a role in the transition. They fear that could leave much of his regime intact or pave the way for another strongman. The SPA has instead called for a Cabinet of technocrats to run the country's daily affairs. They want a legislative council, in which at least 40 percent of the membership would be women, to draft laws and oversee the Cabinet until a new constitution is written.

Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the military council, said Sunday it would hand over power immediately to a "civilian government agreed by all political forces." (AP)

(17) U.S. Will Not...

reduced their purchases of Iranian oil, allowing them to continue buying it without incurring sanctions for six more months. They were China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Italy and Greece. (Reuters)