

### (1) Mattis Slams ...

the Afghans for the future of this country," he said.

Referring to the recent Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb the U.S. Forces dropped on Achin, he said it "was to send a very clear message to ISIS (Daesh). If they come to Afghanistan they will be destroyed."

"We are going to keep going until ISIS-K (Daesh Afghanistan) is defeated in 2017. There is no space for ISIS-K in Afghanistan."

He went on to say the majority of the Afghan people reject the Taliban and do not want to see them resume power in Afghanistan.

In turn, Mattis said: "We are engaged in defining the way ahead in Afghanistan with several nations, there is no one nation that will be responsible."

Mattis stopped off in Kabul on Monday during his tour of the Middle East and Africa to engage with strategic partners.

However, no details were given as to who he would meet while in the country. (Tolonews)

### (2) President ...

replaced by Brig. Gen. Mohammad Nasar, commander of the 1st Brigade of 203rd Thunder Military Corps. Nasar has been elevated to the rank lieutenant-general.

Brig. Gen. Imam Nazar, Second Brigade Task Force commander, has been named as commander of the 205th Atal Military Corps and replaced with Maj. Gen. Daud Shah. Nazar, promoted as lieutenant-general.

Maj. Gen. Daud Shah has been sent to the cadre and personnel office.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Wase, commander of the 2nd brigade of 203rd Thunder Military Corps, has been posted as commander of the Thunder Military Corps. He also been promoted as lieutenant-general. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Asian Economies...

we feel that most economies are well positioned to weather potential short-term shocks."

The US, euro area and Japan are expected to collectively grow by 1.9% in 2017 and 2018. Rising consumer and business confidence and a declining unemployment rate have fueled US growth, but uncertainty over future economic policies may test confidence.

The euro area continues to strengthen, but its outlook is somewhat clouded by uncertainties such as Brexit. Meanwhile, Japan remains dependent on its ability to maintain export growth to continue its expansion, according to the report.

It added the PRC's growth continues to moderate as the government implements measures to transition the economy to a more consumption-driven model. Overall output is expected to slow to 6.5% in 2017 and 6.2% in 2018, down from 2016's 6.7%.

"South Asia remains the fastest growing of all sub-regions, with growth reaching 7% in 2017 and 7.2% in 2018. In India, the sub-region's largest economy, growth is expected to pick up to 7.4% in fiscal year (FY) 2017 and 7.6% in FY2018, following the 7.1% registered last FY.

"The impact of the demonetization of high-value banknotes is dissipating as the replacement banknotes enter circulation. Stronger consumption and fiscal reforms are also expected to improve business confidence and investment prospects in the country."

The Southeast Asia region will grow 4.8% in 2017 and 5% in 2018, from the 4.7% recorded last year. Commodity producers such as Malaysia, Viet Nam and Indonesia will be boosted by the recovery of global food and fuel prices.

Growth in Central Asia is expected to reach 3.1% in 2017 and 3.5% in 2018, on the back of rising commodity prices and increased exports, albeit with large heterogeneity among countries in the region.

Countries in the Pacific will reach 2.9% and 3.3% growth over the next 2 years as the region's largest economy, Papua New Guinea, stabilises following a fiscal crunch and Fiji and Vanuatu recover from natural disasters.

Regional consumer price inflation is projected to accelerate to 3% in 2017 and 3.2% in 2018 from the 2.5% in 2016 on the back of stronger consumer demand and increasingly rising global commodity prices. Inflation projections for the next two years, however, are well below the 10-year regional average of 3.9%.

Risks to the outlook include higher US interest rates, which will accelerate capital outflows, although this risk is mitigated to

some degree by abundant liquidity throughout the region.

On the domestic front, increasing household debt in some Asian economies is a rising risk. The risk can be countered through prudent macro prudential policies, such as requiring tighter debt-to-income ratios for loans.

The Manila-based ADB is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Military Operation...

Northern provinces of the country.

The air and ground operations were launched on the outskirts of Kunduz City, Dasht-i-Archi district of Kunduz, Chamtal district of Balkh, Dahna-I-Ghori district of Balkh and parts of Faryab and Sar-I-Pul provinces, he said.

Waziri said militants suffered heavy casualties during the ongoing offensive. Thirty-five militants were killed and six others arrested in Esakhel area of Chahar Dara district of Kunduz province during a special operation supported by air force on Sunday night, he added.

A number of militants' hideouts and weapons also destroyed in the offensives, he said. The operation was underway in other parts of the country where militants had been inflicted heavy casualties.

There was no comment by the militants about the fresh offensive launched. (Pajhwok)

### (5) China Calls ...

Geng Shuang remarked during a regular press briefing here.

Responding to a question regarding attack on a military base of the Afghan National Army near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, capital of the northern Balkh province of Afghanistan, he said, "We are greatly shocked by the heavy casualties and condemn the attack".

The Chinese side expressed deep condolences over the deaths and extended sincere sympathy to the injured and relatives of the killed, he added.

Taliban had claimed the responsibility of the attack during which at least 140 people were killed and over 160 injured. To yet another question, he said, the Chinese workers would not work at the Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The spokesman said China's position on the Palestinian-Israeli issue was consistent and clear.

"We oppose the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied territory of Palestine, and United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2334 has clear requirements in this regard," he added.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, China had been making positive efforts for the early peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue, especially the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

About President Trump talk to the Japanese Prime Minister about the North Korean issue and an appropriate role of Japan in solving tensions on the Korean Peninsula, he said, Japan was a country in Northeast Asia and a member of the Six-Party Talks. "We always encourage the Japanese side to play a positive and constructive role in the settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue," he added.

He said, China had maintained close communication with Japan and other relevant sides on the Korean Peninsula situation. (APP)

### (6) Hekmatyar ...

Hekmatyar in a government-owned building, the source confided to Pajhwok Afghan News.

Hekmatyar would stay in Jalalabad for a few days before arriving Kabul, said the official, who did not give further details.

Approached for comments, the governor's spokesman said he was unaware of Hekmatyar's arrival in the city. But Attaullah Khogyani said strict security measures had been put in place for the HIA leader's arrival.

He said Nangarhar was the land of peace and Hekmatyar would be welcomed anytime he wished to come there.

But another well-placed source within HIA, which signed a landmark peace deal with the government last year, said Hekmatyar might appear in Jalalabad tomorrow. (Pajhwok)

### (7) MPs Accuse ...

among others, accused President Ashraf Ghani of nepotism in his appointments, and particularly in appointment of Gen. Katawazai as commander of the Shaheen Corps

despite him being past retirement age.

They said these officials are responsible for the loss of lives of dozens of soldiers, and suggested they were taking their resignations.

Mr Katawazai was among 74 generals who were recently due to leave the service after reaching retirement age, which is 65, according to ministry of defence officials who requested anonymity.

"This general had to be sent on retirement, but he was brought back either on the basis of relations or on the basis of political affiliation or ethnicity. The results of such work lead to happening of such a deadly incident," said senator Alokozai.

Friday's attack comes just weeks after parliament summoned top security officials to answer questions over recent attacks in Kabul - especially the attack on Sardar Daud Hospital which left over 50 people dead.

Defense Minister Habibi, Interior Minister Jahid and intelligence chief Masoom Stanikzai were summoned to parliament but secured the MPs' votes of confidence.

"The house of representatives in some way is responsible for this because they voted in support of these officials despite their failures," said MP Pedram of Badakhshan, a province which received over thirty coffins from the Friday attack alone.

Presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi says an investigation is underway to find out how the attack happened and "decision will be taken about Shaheen Corps Commander" once the findings are out.

The attack on VIP protection unit in Kabul last year and last month's attack on Sardar Daud military hospital and Friday's attack in Balkh are the largest Taliban attacks on military installations in the past year alone. (Tolonews)

### (8) MPs Split ...

of the assembly, we are dancing to the music of the ARG (presidential palace) including the speaker and all of us," said MP Humayoun Humayoun.

"We talked with sentiment, abused each other and made fun of ourselves before the media," said MP Jaffar Mahdawi.

Talking on the recent attacks in the country, lawmakers said that such attacks have raised serious questions. They slammed Ghani for being an authoritarian and a dictator.

"People must now determine their future," said MP Kiramuddin Rezazada.

The lawmakers also criticized the implementation of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), an agreement that allowed the U.S. Forces to stay in Afghanistan post-2014 and said that pact had not been implemented in the right way.

"I announced that if the BSA with the U.S brought peace to Afghanistan, then you execute me, I still defend my words," said MP Abdul Rahman Rahmani.

"NATO leaders and U.S officials have always said that the Taliban are not the military target," said MP Zalmai Mojadedi.

In addition, parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said that the cabinet does not have the authority to conduct its job and also the president has suspended 25 directives of the national assembly. (Tolonews)

### (9) World Bank ...

economic development in the country. He pointed out that the changes enabled the country's stock market to become one of the top five stock markets in the world.

The government was also trying to strengthen the role of the private sector in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, giving it an opportunity to select projects of its choice, he added.

CPEC focuses heavily on the energy sector. So far projects worth \$34 billion have gone to this sector. Projects for around 25,000MW have been identified and are at different stages of implementation. Out of this, 10,000MW will be added to the system by March 2018.

Mr Dar claimed that because of these measures there had been no loadshedding in the industrial sector for three years and the government hoped to completely end loadshedding by early 2018.

The minister also discussed with the World Bank officials the government's master plan for the energy sector which, he claimed, would give the economy the much-needed jump-start by taking care of the future demands. For an inclusive and sustainable

high growth, the government is also reaching out to the poorer segments of society by extending microfinance facilities to them. This includes tripling the allocation for the Benazir Income Support Programme, which has increased the number of beneficiaries to 5.4 million.

Mr Dar told the World Bank officials that parliament had already passed 24 laws to encourage growth and investment and was working on 10 more.

The World Bank mostly agrees with this upbeat assessment of the Pakistani economy and recently revised the country's growth rate to 5.2 per cent for 2017 and 5.5pc for 2018. Its previous estimate was 5pc for 2017 and 5.4pc for 2018.

But the bank has warned that the upcoming national elections may force the government to opt for populist policies, which can hurt Pakistan's economy. The World Bank also identified various risks to the projected positive outlook for Pakistan: slower progress on much-needed structural reforms, lingering uncertainty about the US economic policy, a strong rupee and protracted global economic weakness.

Earlier this year, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank had also expressed similar concerns.

Experts warn that slower progress on the structural reforms could weaken growth prospects. They also noted that in early 2017, a stable nominal exchange rate of the rupee versus the US dollar resulted in appreciation of the real effective exchange rate, which was hurting exports.

The World Bank pointed out that Pakistan was also vulnerable to any significant decline in remittance flows, particularly from oil-rich countries that contributed about two-thirds of all remittances. The bank advised the government to take effective measures to reverse imbalances and continue implementing structural reforms to ensure a sustainable growth.

In Washington, Finance Minister Dar also met his Afghan counterpart Ekli Ahmed Hakim and the two talked about coordinating their policies to enhance bilateral trade and economic ties. They agreed to hold the next meeting of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Economic Commission as soon as possible, said an official statement issued after the meeting. (Monitoring Desk)

### (10) UN Condemns ...

Among those interviewed were 85 children. The report says 38 gave credible accounts of being subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in the custody of the Afghan security forces.

Throssell says torture meted out to the detainees include beatings with sticks or plastic cables, electric shocks, suffocation, water boarding, sexual assaults and threats of execution.

"What we are stressing in our report, as with previous reports, is that torture does not enhance security," she said. "Confessions produced as a result of torture are often totally unreliable because people will say anything to stop the pain, the pain of being beaten, electrocuted, suffocated."

The United Nations is calling for proper monitoring of detention facilities and for those accused of torture to be brought to trial and held accountable for their crime. (VoA)

### (11) Defence....

Habib and Army Chief Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim tendered their resignations, thanking the leadership of the unity government for their support. They, however, offered to serve the government in the future in case of need.

The president hailed the services of the defence minister and the army chief, calling loyal sons of the soil. The president said qualified and deserving individuals would be appointed as their replacements soon.

But a reliable source in the unity government confided Pajhwok Afghan News that defence minister and the army chief had stood down over the deadly attack on army corps in Balkh province. He said commanders of the corps had also been dismissed. (Pajhwok)

### (12) US Vows to ...

Atmar thanked McMaster and the US administration for condolences and emphasised on joint efforts and further support to ANDSF in eliminating terrorism.

Over a hundred security personnel were killed and scores wounded in the Taliban attack on the military corps in Balkh last Friday. (Pajhwok)

### (13) War will...

lit candles in memory of the soldiers who died.

"We don't want more of our security forces to be killed," said Khalid Andish a civil society activist.

The attack on the army base sparked a huge outcry across the country over the lack of security. (Tolonews)

### (14)First Afghan...

urban situation, preparation of the book on future of the Afghan cities, preparation and implementation of urban sectors programs with the cooperation of UN-Habitat that included preparation of national urban priority program which was approved by President Ghani, preparation of the program 'City for All' which was prepared with an aim to register the planned and unplanned properties and increment of the government income.

Preparation of the LIVE UP program for the repatriating refugees, preparation of the program for clean and green cities, and certain other efforts involving Minister Naderi since he assumed the office.

Minister Naderi is expecting to formally take the seat in the Governing Council during the summit to be organized in Nairobi city of Kenya.

He is also expected to sign an agreement with the UN-Habitat Chief regarding the implementation of the 20 year urban agenda in housing sector. (KP)

### (15)74,000 Acres...

He said the government should take action to retake land dedicated to welfare schemes from their illegal grabbers.

A tribal elder, Mohammad Sarwar, also said green and recreational areas in Zaranj city were grabbed in the recent past.

"Nimroz is dry and warm province and has unfortunately no recreational area. Most of the here parks are confiscated, these areas should be recovered and transformed into recreational areas," he said. (Pajhwok)

### (16)80 Daesh...

said that 23 other insurgents including al-Qaeda fighters and Mullah Noor Agha, a Taliban commander were killed, in Afghan forces' clearance operations in Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. No details were provided about military or civilian casualties. (Tolonews)

### (17)ALP Commander ...

Tor Jan, serving in Malang Karez area of Maiwand district. The commander, who recently reached the area, was shot dead by two unknown motorcyclists. The gunmen had managed to flee. Targeted attacks on local officials and tribal leaders are a serious security threat in Kandahar.

Hundreds of people have been killed in such incidents in the past few years. (Pajhwok)

### (18)EU Commission...

with his preference. "The choice was a fundamental one," he said, adding Macron represents the pro-European values while Le Pen "seeks its destruction."

Independent candidate Macron led the first round of the presidential elections on Sunday and will face Le Pen of the extreme-right National Front in the May 7 runoff.

Even during the Brexit referendum campaign last year, the Commission kept a low profile, realizing that any perception of meddling would be punished by anti-EU media in Britain. It didn't help, since Britain voted to leave the EU. (AP)

### (19)National ...

Tajani pointed out. European Commission Vice-President for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness Jyrki Katainen stressed that European people "should feel like the owners of Europe's future. Our member countries will make up a new European 27 following Brexit. We need a new direction, content, and commitments." (Xinhua)

### (20)Australia-Based ...

and its controller. It also has the capability of tracking the user. (Xinhua)

### (21)Abe, Trump...

since Washington threatened to take military actions and Pyongyang vowed to hit back if provoked.

Trump's position on the issue that all options, including military action, are "on the table" in dealing with the DPRK issue, was sup-

ported by Abe. (Xinhua)

### (22)Merkel Ally ...

closer as the election approaches and amid a revival in support for the center-left Social Democrats. (Reuters)

### Princess Zahra Aga Khan Reaffirms Continued AKDN Support to Afghanistan

KABUL - Princess Zahra Aga Khan, the daughter of Prince Karim Aga Khan met with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in presidential Palace on Monday and reaffirmed continued support to the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to Afghanistan.

According to the informed sources, Princess Zahra, the head of the social welfare of the Aga Khan Development Network, was accompanied by a delegation of the network during her visit to ARG Palace.

The sources further added that President Ghani hailed the Aga Khan Development for its services in Afghanistan, specifically in the reconstruction and restoration of the country the historic sites including the Chelaitoon park.

Pointing towards AKDN's rich experience in the rehabilitation and restoration of the historic sites, President Ghani urged the network to assist the Afghan students with the training in this sector.

The First Lady of Afghanistan Rola Ghani also emphasized on the importance of AKDN's role in supporting the Afghan women in healthcare, education, and access to justice.

In her turn, Princess Zahra reaffirmed continued support of AKDN to Afghanistan and said the main purpose of her visit to Afghanistan is to inaugurate the Telemedicine hospital in Bamyan besides visiting the project sites where rehabilitation of the historic sites are underway.

She also added that the one of the purposes of her visit to Afghanistan is to also seek opportunities available for further cooperation in other sectors. (KP)

### Some MPs Accused of Hampering Better Health Services

KHOST CITY - Public health officials on Monday accused some Wolesi Jirga members of creating hurdles to efforts at the improvement healthcare services in southern Khost province.

Dr. Gul Mohammad Din Mangal, acting public health director, alleged some lawmakers from Khost impeded attempts at strengthening health services instead of playing resolve people's problems.

Speaking at a meeting of doctors, he said a number of legislators were harming the national interest. "Unfortunately, our representatives warn ministers to hire their relatives or face a no-trust vote."

Mangal said Khost was paid less attention in the healthcare area due to interference from public representatives. "I'm quoting Public Health Minister Dr. Firozuddin Firoz, who shared these views with our elders. We also believe changes to an office are essential..."

He urged Wolesi Jirga members, provincial council members and local officials to demand enough resources from the central government for the improvement of healthcare services.

"My sisters in remote areas lose their lives during regnancy, but my representatives seek personal favours from ministers by summoning them to the lower house. People have voted for their representatives to defend their rights," he remarked.

Meanwhile, provincial council head Mujib Rahman Salimzoy Zardran told Pajhwok Afghan News he did not know the public representatives creating problems for health services' improvement.

"We agree some Khost MPs are trying to get their blue-eyed people appointed as the public health director, but the issue that some of them create problems in delivery of services gas been cleared by Dr. Gul Mohammad Din," he said.

But Kamal Nasar Osuli, a lawmaker from Khost, rejected the public health director's allegations. He said health affairs had not been going well over the past four years as the department was led by acting directors. (Pajhwok)