

**(1) President Again...**

"If you are Muslim and Afghan accept peace offer."

Referring to the Taliban spring offensive Al Khandaq, the president questioned did the Taliban knew the philosophy behind the Alkhand battle? Against who the prophet launched Al Khanduq battle? Aren't they the [Taliban] fighting against the Jihadi leaders, ulema, elders and people of Afghanistan? The Taliban and Daesh had no roots among people otherwise they would have not launched attacks against its people, he said.

The president added reforms would be taking place in line with constitution, rules should be enforced and work should be handed over to qualified and committed persons. "Our reform agenda is highlight under these two points and the development of Afghanistan is must for us," he added.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim and Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar also addressed the event and spread light over the Mujahidin's victory. (Pajhwok)

**(2) 'US Wants to...**

to create a future in which everyone in this country can live in peace, freedom and dignity."

Referring to the peace efforts, the envoy added: "We have seen During Tashkent Conference important countries and organizations reaffirmed their commitment and support for President Ghani's historic offer to the Taliban to bring this conflict to a close. I expect NATO Foreign Ministers meeting tomorrow to reaffirm their commitment to peace as well."

Bass expressed condolences on the behalf of US government and embassy to the family friends of terrorist violence in recent days special on last Sunday.

"All attacks are terrible, but the one in Dasht-i-Barch is particularly awful because it targeted a group of people who were seeking to exercise their rights as citizens to register as voter so they can have their voices heard." (Pajhwok)

**(3) Taliban Seize...**

Five civilians were killed and three were injured.

Attaullah Khogyani, the provincial spokesman for Nangarhar, said three women were among those killed and two women and a child were injured in the attack.

Assessments of the size of Taliban territorial control vary but the Pentagon estimates that 56 percent of the country is under government control, while a BBC survey this year estimated the insurgents were active in 70 percent of Afghanistan. (Reuters)

**(4) NATO Backs**

As the Afghan Government of National Unity takes steps to uphold stability and security, and to promote peace, NATO reaffirms its commitment to the development of the Afghan security and defence forces through a conditions-based approach for our Resolute Support Mission. We recognize and highly appreciate the essential contributions that the men and women in uniform from Allied nations, and from our Resolute Support Mission (RSM) operational partners, have provided over many years of NATO presence in Afghanistan. NATO foreign ministers said.

"We urge the Taliban to respond favorably to this opportunity and participate in an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process. The responsibility to bring an end to a long era of conflict is now in the Taliban's hands." Statement added. NATO also welcomes the support for this proposal that was provided by countries within the region at the 27 March Tashkent Conference on Afghanistan.

Regional actors have a significant role to play in support of peace and stabilization in Afghanistan. Pakistan facilitates important logistical supply lines for the Resolute Support Mission.

"We believe Pakistan's role will be important to a peace process, including in encouraging the Taliban to change their calculus. We

encourage Pakistan to act on its stated support for a political solution to the Afghan conflict, to close terrorist sanctuaries and to work to prevent terrorist financial flows and cross-border attacks, including by working with its neighbors." NATO MF statement added.

We echo President Ghani's call on regional actors to cooperate more closely on fighting terrorism and to support the Afghan government's peace and reconciliation efforts. In this regard, we also encourage Iran and Russia to contribute to regional stability by fully supporting an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

NATO foreign ministers said, fair, inclusive and timely parliamentary and presidential elections due in 2018 and 2019 respectively are essential for peace, stability, and the consolidation of democracy.

NATO therefore welcomes the recent announcement by the Afghan Independent Election Commission in setting the date for parliamentary elections on 20 October 2018. More broadly, we encourage Afghanistan to continue on the path to wider reform.

The Government of National Unity will remain fully accountable for the commitments it made in this respect during the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan held on 4-5 October 2016, including the promotion of human rights, good governance, and combatting corruption in Afghanistan. NATO foreign ministers added.

Allies are committed to strengthening Afghan security capabilities to tackle both internal security threats and terrorists who seek to use Afghanistan as a safe haven from which to plot attacks on other nations. NATO also supports the Afghan Government's determination to eliminate the threat of terrorism in all its forms, including that posed by ISIS/Daesh affiliates in Afghanistan.

There should be no doubt about NATO's position: NATO will continue to provide the support that the Afghan Government has requested so we can help Afghanistan fully provide for its own security. NATO foreign ministers statement said. (Pajhwok)

**(5) North and South...**

by North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, and the South's president, Moon Jae-in, after their meeting at the border village of Panmunjom.

The agreements came at the end of a day of extraordinary diplomatic stagecraft emphasizing hopes for reconciliation and disarmament that was broadcast live around the world, beginning with a smile and handshake that Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon shared at the border and extending to a quiet, 30-minute talk they had near the end of the day in a wooded area of the village. Their meeting was marked by some surprisingly candid moments but also sweeping pledges, with Mr. Kim declaring, "I came here to put an end to the history of confrontation." Still, the agreement was short on details, timetables and next steps.

The event, at the Peace House, a conference building on the South Korean side of Panmunjom, was closely watched because it could set the tone for the even more critical summit meeting between President Trump and Mr. Kim, two leaders known for bold, if unpredictable, actions who put the world on edge last year with threats of a nuclear war.

The Trump administration has tightened sanctions on North Korea with China's help and, mindful that the North has failed to deliver on its promises in the past, insisted that Mr. Kim make substantial progress dismantling his nuclear arsenal before the "maximum pressure" campaign is eased.

But by agreeing to pursue a peace deal this year, Mr. Moon held out the prospect of progress toward one of North Korea's top goals before the North has given up its nuclear weapons, and perhaps measures to withdraw troops from inside the Demilitarized Zone, the heavily armed buffer area between the two Koreas, and create a joint fishing

zone around the disputed western sea border, a scene of bloody naval skirmishes between the two Koreas. Mr. Moon also dangled an economic incentive, reaffirming promises made in the past by the South of huge investments to help improve the North's road and train systems. But those agreements collapsed as the North persisted in developing nuclear weapons, and Mr. Moon's aides have said that such assistance can only come after the North makes progress toward denuclearization and sanctions are lifted.

In Washington, Mr. Trump signaled his support of Mr. Moon's position, writing early Friday on Twitter: "Good things are happening, but only time will tell!" Fifteen minutes later, he declared in an all-caps tweet, "KOREAN WAR TO END!" and said that all Americans should be "very proud" of what was taking place on the Korean Peninsula. During an appearance in the Oval Office with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany on Friday, Mr. Trump said he believed that the North Korean leader was serious about making a deal to give up his nuclear weapons.

"I don't think he's playing," said Mr. Trump, who faulted his predecessors for their handling of the threat from North Korea, saying they had allowed themselves to be duped.

"The United States has been played beautifully, like a fiddle, because you had a different kind of a leader," Mr. Trump said. "We're not going to be played, O.K.? We're going to hopefully make a deal; if we don't, that's fine."

On Twitter, Mr. Trump also thanked President Xi Jinping of China for his "great help" in the process.

China's state news media played the summit meeting prominently, even though China had been left on the sidelines with little influence over the proceedings. The Chinese Foreign Ministry praised the courage of the two Korean leaders, and said it welcomed "the new journey" for peace on the Korean Peninsula. The tone of the summit meeting — much of which was broadcast live in South Korea but not North Korea — was convivial and at times jocular, with Mr. Kim showing surprising honesty about the differences in conditions between the two nations.

Yoon Young-chan, Mr. Moon's spokesman, said Mr. Kim acknowledged the poor road conditions in his country, a startling admission for a member of his ruling family, which is considered godlike and faultless among North Koreans. Mr. Kim also revealed that the North Koreans who visited the South during the Winter Olympics in February all admired the bullet train there.

After Mr. Moon spoke of wanting to visit North Korea, Mr. Kim said, "It will be very embarrassing," alluding to roads there.

Mr. Kim also repeated a lighthearted line he had used in his meeting with South Korean envoys who visited Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, last month, apologizing to Mr. Moon for disturbing his sleep with missile tests and forcing him to attend meetings of his National Security Council.

"I heard you had your early-morning sleep disturbed many times because you had to attend the N.S.C. meetings because of us," Mr. Kim said. "Getting up early in the morning must have become a habit for you. I will make sure that your morning sleep won't be disturbed." Mr. Moon joked back: "Now I can sleep in peace."

An armistice brought about a ceasefire to the Korean War in 1953, but the conflict never officially ended because the parties could not agree to a formal peace treaty. They would have to overcome significant obstacles to do so now, including China's likely demand that American troops leave South Korea.

In their joint statement, the two Korean leaders said that within a year, they would push for a trilateral conference with the United States, or a four-party forum that also included China, with the aim of "declaring an end to the Korean War" and intentions to "replace the armi-

stice with a peace treaty."

Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon also agreed to improve inter-Korean relations by opening a liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and arranging a reunion later this year of families separated by the war. And they said Mr. Moon would visit Pyongyang in the fall.

Mr. Moon, a progressive leader who says he likes to see South Korea "in the driver's seat" in pushing the peace effort forward, is trying to broker a successful summit meeting between Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump, which is expected in late May or early June.

Mr. Kim rattled the region last year by testing long-range missiles and trading threats of nuclear war with Mr. Trump. But then he abruptly shifted gears, saying he was willing to give up his nuclear weapons for the right incentives and proposing the meeting with Mr. Trump.

Last weekend, Mr. Kim announced an end to all nuclear and long-range-missile tests, saying that his country had mastered how to mount nuclear warheads on missiles and no longer needed to conduct tests. Mr. Kim said North Korea had adopted a "new strategic line" focusing on economic development.

Skeptics say Mr. Kim is trying to improve ties with South Korea to steer it from the United States and escape sanctions that are increasingly hurting the North's economy. Indeed, many conservatives in the South fear that the North's goal remains to be accepted as a nuclear power in return for freezing its nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile programs.

The declaration by Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon "is breathtaking in its scope and ambition," David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, said by email. "But how to achieve all the goals laid out in the document, given the current situation?" (NYT)

**(6) 7th & 8th...**

leaders of jihadi parties murdered 70,000 people in Kabul, they should be brought to justice by people themselves and avenge the blood of thousands of lives," she said.

Ghafari denounced what happened on the two historic days and those maneuvering behind the scenes. She called the current government as 'puppet' and said the perpetrators of all miseries of the Afghans were jihadi leaders, communists and the Taliban.

"The US and the West use these jihadi leaders for implementing their own plans because these leaders are power hungry and they sell the country for wealth and resources", she concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(7) India, China...**

Prior to the Wuhan summit, Beijing had invited Indian officials who deal with Afghanistan and had reportedly proposed both sides getting involved in a joint development project.

This development suggests that China is unwilling to have its options cramped by Pakistan's reservations about India's role in Afghanistan.

Several web site-related reports have said that both India and China have their respective reasons for forging a broad-based regional approach towards stabilizing Afghanistan.

India has pledged over USD two billion on a wide array of reconstruction projects that range from building roads and dams to constructing the building of the Afghan parliament and a slew of grassroots projects.

New Delhi has significant economic and strategic involvement in Afghanistan. From an economic perspective, India sees Afghanistan as a bridge to Central Asia and a potential hub of regional prosperity. From a strategic an security perspective, Kabul is important for India to help neutralize the impact of terrorist networks, suspected to be supported by Pakistan, and operating from there as well as Afghanistan.

China is also keen to quell the dominance of the Taliban-allied militant networks. India has been advocat-

ing a regional approach and the continued international assistance as it fears a Taliban takeover will lead to the installation of a hostile regime in Kabul which will be remote-controlled by Pakistan's ISI-military establishment. This regional approach is now finding more support.

Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to conclude their unprecedented informal summit in a short while from now; seen as an effort on the part of India and China to rebuild trust and improve bilateral ties that were hit by last year's Doklam standoff.

Briefing the media on the Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said "India and China have agreed on specific guidance to implement confidence building and better understanding."

Both leaders also talked about the importance of a balanced and sustainable trade ties between India, China. They discussed at length over how to promote culture and greater people-to-people connect between two nations.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi walked together along the banks of the picturesque East Lake and followed it up with a boat ride.

This two day "informal summit" between India and China focused on terrorism, climate change and developing a mutually beneficial relationship between both countries. (ANI)

**(8) Security Forces...**

the resident of Aqtapai locality acknowledged the district bazaar was in the Taliban's control.

Police Chief Abdul Hameed Hameedi rejected the claim the Taliban have captured the Aqtapai Bazaar saying fighting was underway between the Taliban and security forces on district office. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Interior Minister...**

of Afghanistan where he talked about fighting against terrorism and eradicating their financial resources in the country and in the region, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

Afghanistan Ambassador in Paris Abdullah Sediqi and Amanuddin Mubariz, director of foreign relations of the Ministry of Interior also attended the conference, the statement added.

This comes after dozens of people were killed in an attack, claimed by Daesh, targeting a voter registration center in Kabul.

A string of attacks has killed 245 people in France since January 2015 and dozens of others have been thwarted, Associated Press reported.

The French organizers noted that Daesh military defeats on the ground don't prevent the group from pursuing its activities, along with al-Qaida — especially in unstable regions of Afghanistan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Yemen, Egypt and sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

Thursday's meeting gathers ministers of justice, finance, foreign affairs and the interior from Western countries, the Arab world and other nations as well as representatives of 18 international organizations. (Tolo news)

**(10) Abdullah Sees...**

foundations of our politics and carrying of our legal civil and political activities," said Mohammad Younus Qanooni, member of Jamiat leadership and former vice president.

Participants of the event called for thorough support for the election process.

This comes after the voter registration process kicked off on April 14. Despite a low turnout by the people across the country, the Independent Election Commission says it hopes participation will increase in the coming weeks.

The upcoming parliamentary and district council elections are scheduled to be held on October 20. (Tolo news)