

(1) Modi-Xi...

Pakistan's reaction to the development will be keenly watched as Islamabad is in talks with Beijing to extend its economic corridor with China (CPEC) to Afghanistan, the report read.

The two leaders also discussed issues around the "common threat" of terrorism.

"They committed to cooperate on counter-terrorism," the Indian government said in a statement after the summit.

Xinhua meanwhile reported that Xi said that mutual trust is the basis for the stable development of China-India relations.

Xi said that the two countries have forged a closer development partnership and made progress on exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

"We have paid reciprocal visits, met on multiple occasions, and reached many important consensus over the past three years, which acted as a guidance to the positive development momentum of bilateral ties," Xi said.

China and India, as the two biggest developing countries and two emerging economies each with a population of over 1 billion, are both important engines of global economic growth, as well as backbone forces for promoting multi-polarization and economic globalization, Xi said.

The international situation is undergoing a critical period of changes and adjustment, and countries around the world are now more inter-connected and rely on each other, said Xi, noting that "the trend of peace and development is irreversible."

"A sound China-India relationship is an important, positive factor for safeguarding world stability, and means a lot to the development and progress of all human beings," Xi said. "China and India should be good neighbors and friends," Xi said. "The two countries should regard each other as a positive factor in the balance of global power and take each other as partners for realizing the dream of development." (Tolo news)

(2) Pakistan Moves...

officials could not be reached on Saturday, nor could embassy officials for the United States, which has for years called on Pakistan to release Afridi.

Afridi was accused of treason after word spread he had helped the CIA collect genetic samples of the bin Laden family, paving the way for a US Navy SEAL raid in 2011 in the town of Abbottabad that killed the al Qaeda leader accused of plotting the Sept. 11 2001 attacks on the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people. He was arrested days after the US operation - which Pakistan called a violation of its sovereignty - and charged with aiding terrorists.

Afridi was sentenced to 23 years' jail for financing terrorism. That conviction was overturned in 2013, but he is still serving time for other terrorism-related convictions, his lawyer said.

He also faced a murder trial related to the death of a patient more than a decade ago.

However, the lawyer said Afridi had recently had his latest sentence reduced to seven years in a clemency action, and had served about that amount of time already.

"So I think he can be released very soon," Nadeem told Reuters.

There were no other immediate indications of any release in the works, however.

A US State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, called on the Pakistani government to ensure Afridi's safety.

"We are aware of reports that Dr. Afridi has been transferred to another prison, and call on the Government of Pakistan to take all necessary measures to ensure Dr. Afridi's safety," the official said.

"We don't have anything else at this time and would refer you to the government of Pakistan as to the reasons for his transfer," the official added.

In January 2017, Pakistan's then-law minister said the country would not release Afridi under any US pressure.

"Afridi worked against the law and our national interest, and the Pakistan government has repeatedly been telling the United States that under our law he committed a crime and was facing the law," Zahid Hamid was quoted as saying at the time. (Tolo news)

(3) MPs Condemn...

Faisal Sami, another senator from northern Baghlan province, expressed similar views and urged security forces to prevent militants from reaching their nefarious designs.

First Senate chairman Mohammad AlamEzediyar, who chaired the session, said the Taliban should accept the golden opportunity of joining the peace process.

He believed the rebels would not appear for peace talks until they were militarily defeated. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghanistan...

launched negotiations, the government of Afghanistan had offered to the Taliban unconditional negotiations and state-level talks with the government of Pakistan"

The statement said Afghanistan hoped talks between South and North Korea would bear fruits results and build the environment of trust between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

(5) Ministry of Mines ...

statistics show that Afghanistan imports around 10,000 tons of cement from Tajikistan, Iran and Pakistan in a day, while the four cement factories in the country produce less than 1,000 tons of cement daily. (Tolo news)

(6) IEC Office...

Khalil Hotak, a protester said. "We should also have representatives in parliament," Sayed Obaidullah Hashemi, another protester said.

"In the areas that Hazara people live there are more election stations compared to other places and that is why the people have protested," Ahmad Bilal Wajid, another resident said.

IEC officials meanwhile said although they have informed the protesters that their demands have been shared with the relevant departments, they have not ended their sit-in protest and the IEC office has remained closed.

IEC commissioner Sayed Hafizullah Hashemi said if the IEC office remains closed, a big challenge will be created in the election process in the province.

"We have shared the issue with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and security departments. This problem should be resolved and if it continues, it will turn to a big

challenge which might start in other provinces as well," Hashimi said.

A number of Ghazni MPs in parliament meanwhile said it is impossible to make the electoral districts smaller at this time. They said government should somehow resolve this problem.

"Ghazni is a province and part of Afghanistan and this problem is manageable and should be resolved soon. It is impossible to hold elections in Ghazni differently from other areas," MP Abdul Qayyum Sajjadi said. Reports indicate that since the beginning of the voter registration process, 3,375 voters have registered their names in Ghazni province. (Tolo news)

(7) Ball in Taliban's...

willing to accept peace offer.

"So, I think it doesn't weaken your armed forces. They have a very clear mandate and the mission is not yet accomplished. So, the fight will continue and it is up to the Taliban to clearly show their demonstration to cease hostilities, for the fight to end." "Let's not forget that the Taliban started to attack the government, so if they cease the fight then further decisions will be taken." he added.

The NATO SCR reiterated the alliance firm support and commitment to Afghanistan as this was reflected by the role which Afghanistan played in this Foreign Ministers' meetings. The 29 NATO Foreign Ministers underpinned in a public statement the importance of security and stability in Afghanistan, and in the wider region. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the development of the Afghan security forces through a conditions based approach. They also underpinned their united support for President Ghani's proposal of unconditional talks to the Taliban. And finally, they made clear that timely parliamentary and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019 will be essential for peace stabilisation and the consolidation of democracy. (Pajhwok)

(8) Taliban's Funding...

and areas of the unlawful business.

In response to a query from Pajhwok Afghan News, he sounded optimistic of improvement in Kabul-Islamabad relations in the wake of Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's recent visit to Afghanistan.

Nicholson hope Pakistan would honour the pledges Abbasi had held out to his interlocutors in Kabul. Such a move would be in the interest of both nations, he believed.

"All of us want Pakistan to cooperate on the Afghan-led reconciliation process," he remarked, saying strong pressure was being mounted on Islamabad.

In this regard, the general referred to the Trump administration's decision on halting civilian and military assistance to Islamabad and a call from NATO foreign ministers that Pakistan play a proactive role in stabilising Afghanistan.

"We are hopeful that dialogue, cooperation and pressures would push the Taliban to the negotiating table and stop Pakistan aiding the militant movement," he continued.

The Resolute Support commander admitted the Taliban had not yet formally responded to the dialogue offer from President Ashraf Ghani, but behind-the-

scene negotiations were ongoing. He pointed out an uptick in airstrikes on insurgent positions after President Donald Trump's announcement of a new Afghan strategy in August last year.

As a consequence of stepped-up raids, the commander claimed, the guerrillas had been weakened considerably. As a last resort, the fighters were staging group attacks on security checkpoints and some cities, he said.

About the launch of Taliban's spring offensive, he said though the rebels had embarked on operations, yet the Afghans desired peace and the militants should meet people's aspirations. At the same time, he added, Afghan security forces had also become stronger and were conducting counter-insurgency offensive with stout support from their NATO partners.

The Resolute Support personnel were cooperating with the Afghan forces on providing security for the voter registration process ahead of the August parliamentary elections, he continued.

With regard to Daesh operations in northern Afghanistan, Nicholson confirmed the terrorist group's presence in Jawzjan province. A top Islamic State leader, Qari Hikmatullah, was recently killed there.

Former Taliban members have joined Daesh in the north, according to Nicholson, who said Afghan security forces were carrying out search operations in Badakhshan, Kunduz, Jawzjan and Faryab. (Pajhwok)

(9) Mujahidin to...

"Mujahidin should name an independent candidate and the people should stand shoulder to shoulder with their nominees as they done in past elections," he remarked.

At a similar gathering in Kabul, President Ashraf Ghani during announced the presidential election would be held next year. On the occasion, Younis Qanuni, former vice-president, said: "Any delay in elections is unacceptable to the nation on any pretext. I hope irregularities seen in past elections will not recur."

Without naming anyone, Qanuni accused some countries of seeking to influence the Afghan election process and paving the way for a delay to create the opportunity for middling. (Pajhwok)

(10) IEC's Ability...

"They announced yesterday that the database is ready, but our observers so far have not managed to see how the process is moving, the commission must allow the institutions to oversee how the statistics are being entered into the database," said Yousuf Rashid, CEO of FEFA.

"To determine transparency of elections and to obtain the confidence of the people, the commission must allow the observers to see how the commission works," said civil society activist Shukria Jalalzai. The IEC said that the women's turnout in Afghanistan's major cities, the north and Helmand province is higher compared to other provinces.

Maidan Wardak so far registered the lowest turnout of women in the process, officials said. (Tolo news)

(11) Large Cache of...

appropriate.

The anti-government armed militant groups including Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report

so far.

This comes as the anti-government armed militants are attempting to carry out attacks in the key provinces and cities of the country including capital Kabul during the recent weeks and months.

The Taliban group last week announced their spring offensive and vowed to carry out attacks on government and security officials as well as the compounds belonging to the Afghan government, security forces, and foreign forces. (KP)

(12) Barmak's Failur...

on fighting terrorism.

"It is clear that the absence of the minister of interior from the house of the people (parliament) does not mean an insult, you know that the minister of interior is currently on a foreign trip where he is participating at a very important meeting," said MoI spokesman Najib Danish.

Senators meanwhile decided to summon Barmak and chief of National Directorate of Security (NDS) Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai to appear before the house next Sunday and respond to the questions around the deteriorating security situation. (Tolo news)

(13) Blast near...

The injured were being treated and their health condition had been improved.

Zabihullah Wagari, the Independent Election Commission (IEC), head for Nangarhar confirmed the incident and added in which some people including a policewoman was injured.

No militant group claimed responsibility for the blast. (Pajhwok)

(14) WC 2019...

got better since that tournament. "I am getting goosebumps thinking about playing Australia in our World Cup opener in England. For most of us, it is like a dream but the reality is we have worked extremely hard for this and have been rewarded with the opportunity of not only playing against Australia but all the big nations who have done so very well in international cricket over the past years.

"The match against Australia provides us the chance to make a strong start in the tournament of the best versus the best, and ensure people take serious note of us. We know we have the potential and capability of causing a few upsets and surprises, and the Australia match will surely provide us the impetus to strengthen our reputation as a cricket nation with tremendous future and promise."

Afghanistan's schedule of World Cup matches:

1 June - v Australia, Bristol (d/n)

4 June - v Sri Lanka, Cardiff Wales Stadium (d)

8 June - v New Zealand, Taunton (d/n)

15 June - v South Africa, Cardiff Wales Stadium (d/n)

18 June - v England, Old Trafford (d)

22 June - v India, Hampshire Bowl (d)

24 June - v Bangladesh, Hampshire Bowl (d)

29 June - v Pakistan, Headingley (d)

4 July - v Windies, Headingley (d)

(Pajhwok)