

**(1) Kabul, Tehran...**

and illicit movement" He told his Iranian counterpart: "We need to jointly discuss crushing of terrorist groups, especially Daesh militant outfit."

"We have so far strongly fought Daesh in Afghanistan and anti-Daesh military operations are still ongoing. As a result, the 'enemy' after being beaten on the battlefield has now resorted to attacking sacred places, such as mosques."

President Ghani called for joint cooperation to secure the shared border between the two countries, adding smugglers and criminal economy mafia wanted to insecure the border.

Ghani dubbed railway tracks, transit trade and Chabahar Port as vital connections between Afghanistan and Iran. "We want to turn Afghanistan into a connectivity centre between Iran and Central Asia and China."

Both the sides also conferred on problems ranging from drug smuggling to environment protection and addiction to drugs, the statement said.

The Afghan leader was expected to meet some Afghan traders residing in Iran this noon before attending the swearing-in ceremony of President Rouhani in the evening.

According to the statement, President Rouhani, while welcoming President Ghani, offered his sympathies to the government and people of Afghanistan over recent terrorist incidents.

Rouhani said Afghanistan and Iran were brotherly nations and enjoyed common culture. He said Iran valued its relations with Afghanistan. "Afghanistan's security is significant for us and Iran is ready to help Afghanistan in the security sector."

He said Iranians had the experience of imposed war and could understand Afghanistan's current situation. "We are in favour of more and improved bilateral ties. The extension of railway track from Iran to Herat and also the Chabahar Port can be a connection point of bilateral cooperation."

Rouhani promised the Afghanistan-Iran border would be changed into a cooperative and friendship border, expressing keen interest in helping Afghanistan in areas of mines, industry, trade and education.

**(2) Dostum and Ahadi**

blamed the security officials for their failure that have resulted into the deteriorating security situation.

The meeting between Dostum and Ahadi in Ankara city takes place amid ongoing efforts to establish the new political coalition in Afghanistan.

Dostum is in Turkey for the treatment with President Ghani earlier saying that the first vice president has left the country after receiving approval and permission from the Attorney General Office.

Reports regarding his return surfaced amid ongoing political issues and differences he has with the government, mainly due to the controversial abuse case of his political rival Ahmad Khan Ishchi.

In the meantime, Dostum together with the Balkh governor and chief executive of Jamiat-e-Islami and Mohammad Mohaqiq, the deputy chief executive and leader of Hezb-e-Islami are busy to formally declare the new political coalition which they aim will be formed to save the country from the ongoing crisis. (KP)

**(3) Kabul Hosts ...**

what happens in the competition," said Ahmad Rasheed, a karate fighter from Kabul.

"The level of the competition is high this year. Athletes have done better exercises. We will have better results this time," said Mohammad Rafee, the coach of Kapisa province team.

After the competition 125 athletes from four age categories will be selected for the national Ashihara karate teams. (Tolnews)

**(4) 1,200 People ...**

retaking usurped land. However, civil society activists said that government's efforts to recover grabbed land had failed because they believed government officials themselves were involved in the saga.

Civil society activist, Ghulam Rasoul, said not only in Balkh, but in the whole of the country public and private land had been usurped by government officials or people having connections with them.

"Land grabbing directly impacts people's economic life and that is the reason people have lost trust in the government, he said.

Local officials confirmed land grabbing in Balkh, but not at the level as claimed, saying said the issue was being exaggerated.

Governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, said land grabbing was ongoing in Afghanistan since 1991.

He confirmed land grabbing but said the figures given were exaggerated. "The local government has fought against land grabbers since years and the struggle is still underway," he added.

Citing an example, he said 40,000 acres of usurped land was retaken in Balkh in 2016. He said efforts would continue until all usurped land in Balkh was recovered. (Pajhwok)

**(5) McMaster...**

where Pakistan is taking great losses."

"They have fought very hard against these groups," McMaster argued, "but they've done so really only selectively."

He said that Trump is making clear that the U.S. will no longer tolerate any support for the Taliban or related groups.

"The president has also made clear that he, that we need to see a change in behavior of those in the region, which includes those who are providing safe haven and support bases for the Taliban," McMaster added.

McMaster defended the campaign in Afghanistan, arguing they had seen "tremendous" success in the country.

"There's a tremendously successful campaign going on with Afghan forces in the lead. It's an unreported campaign in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan," McMaster said.

"We're not gonna talk tactics anymore, right?" he added. "Everything before was, you know, troop levels and very specific details announcing to the enemy years in advance exactly the number of troops you're gonna have, exactly what they're gonna do and what they're not gonna do. And so the president has said, that 'That is not the way to fight a war. It never has been.' This is an invention of recent years."

McMaster also said the president "absolutely" has confidence in the commander in charge of the U.S. war effort against the Taliban and ISIS in Afghanistan.

The general defended Trump's decisions in Afghanistan and the commander in charge of the mission following reports that the president wants to fire him.

According to reports this week of a situation room meeting in July, Trump believes Gen. John Nicholson - the commander in charge of Afghanistan - is "losing" the war in the country.

"I've known him for many years," McMaster said of Nicholson. "I can't imagine a more capable commander on any mission."

He said the president "absolutely" has confidence in Nicholson. McMaster also reportedly defended the general in the situation room meeting.

McMaster himself has been the target of right-wing Trump supporters outraged at the general's decision to renew security clearance for Susan Rice, former President Barack Obama's national security adviser.

"General McMaster and I are working very well together," Trump said in a statement Friday. "He is a good man and very pro-Israel. I am grateful for the work he continues to do serving our country."

McMaster in the interview with Hewitt also argued that Trump's loosening of restrictions on the military was beginning to see a "payoff."

"The president has said that, he does not want to place restrictions on the military that undermine our

ability to win battles in combat," McMaster added. "He has lifted those restrictions, and you're beginning to see the payoff of that as well." (Monitoring Desk)

**(6) Tourism ...**

fewer facilities on hand to accommodate them," said Abbas Khawari, head of Bamiyan Museum.

A number of Afghan tourists said the first time visit to Bamiyan made them excited and hopeful about a brighter future for the country.

"Today was very exciting for me, especially when I visited the Buddha sculptures," said Haseena, a resident of Kabul.

"It was my severe desire which pushed me to visit Bamiyan," said Basira, a resident of Kapisa.

In the Band-e-Amir National Park, a number of swimmers took part in a swimming competition to attract the attention of tourists.

"We had a swimming race among five provinces. Herat got the second position," said Murtaza, a swimmer from Herat.

"We usually come to Bamiyan for sightseeing and fun," said Naqibullah, a resident of Baghlan.

This comes after the rural rehabilitation and development minister, Nasir Ahmad Durani, on Saturday inaugurated the construction of roads around Buddha sculptures in the Bamiyan city.

The minister said the project was aimed at attracting the attention of more tourists to the province. (Tolnews)

**(7) Hekmatyar...**

"Parties try to show the other parties up as weak and themselves strong. They highlight and speak of such issues to grab attention," said Jawed Faisal, CEO Deputy Spokesman.

"The election belongs to all Afghan people not to a specific person," IEC head secretariat, Imam Mohammad Warimach said.

Hekmatyar said if government accepts the legitimate demands of the anti-government groups and provide them with good opportunities; a big number of them will join peace process. (Tolnews)

**(8) US Afghan**

Afterwards, Rabbani called the strategic partnership agreement and the Bilateral Security Agreement between Afghanistan and the US as a sign of importance of the relations between the two countries and expressed his hope for finalization of the American policy review in coming future. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Iraqi NSA ...**

evacuate Iraqi diplomats to safety. Al-Fayaz, Iraqi NSA, said terrorist groups, particularly Daesh, were out to trample on human values, but political and military leaders of both countries would never give them the opportunity to succeed. In the past few days, he added, the bravery and hospitality of the Afghan forces had been hogging the headlines in Iraqi media.

Iraq's NSA said the IS and Al-Qaeda groups had given a false picture to the world, all the Islamic countries are obliged to be able to eliminate these groups.

Atmar, on behalf of President Ghani and the people of Afghanistan, expressed his regrets over the attack on the embassy. He said Daesh had suffered losses in Nangarhar and Iraq's Mosul.

The militants targeted the embassy to avenge the reverses inflicted on the group.

The Iraqi official said their resolve had been strengthened further to develop academic, cultural and political cooperation with Afghanistan. He invited Atmar to visit Iraq, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(10) MoHE to...**

the degrees that are about to be issued to the students and probably before issuing the degrees. The ministry may conduct a test to establish if students fulfil the required standard set by the ministry.

The new approach of the ministry is to review the students who are to graduate this year and could in the future it also be expanded to students who already have received their degrees.

"We do not issue their diplomas until the real graduates are separated from the ghost students. I do not want to say where the problem was: be it in the ministry, in

the private university or the mafia outside the ministry has created the problem. We have checked all the documents and our process is continuing," Mohammad Amir Kamawal, head of private universities department in the ministry said.

A number of students of the private universities also said they are tired of the problems in these universities, but most of them refused to comment on camera and those who did, were very cautious.

"This (diploma problem) is the only problem students are talking about. If we do not know someone (in a high place), we might not get a job. These problems have undermined the students morale," Jawan Shir, a student said.

"At least a (government) team should come once a month and ask them (the private universities) how they teach," Shafiqullah, another student said. (Tolnews)

**(11) Baghlan-Kunduz ...**

Rashid said. Commuters have raised raises concern over the lack of security of the highway.

"Travel on the highway is very unsafe and every day we witness war along the road. Government must ensure security of the highway," said Shokor a driver.

Responsibility for the security of the highway is that of officials manning 27 security and public order police check posts. Security forces, however, complain about the lack of weapons and facilities.

"We are facing a lack of weapons and supplies are not maintained. The central government must take it seriously," said Zabiullah Ghorzand a commander of public order police in Baghlan province.

"Ten meters from the main road are Taliban and we cannot move from main road," said Abdul Wahid a public order soldier. (Tolnews)

**(12) NDS Seizes...**

Ahmad, Aziz Ahmad, Hazrat Omar, Seddiqullah and Omar. This comes after Kabul has witnessed deadly blasts in the past two months, which have claimed dozens of lives.

The government has announced that it would take a number of measures to boost the safety of the citizens across the country. (Tolnews)

**(13) Concerns Raised...**

The spokesman said that Obaidullah, designated district governor of Taliban for Qarqeen district in Jawzjan was killed during a clash with Afghan forces.

Ghafoori said reinforcements have arrived at the province to clear the insecure areas of Taliban. (Tolnews)

**(14) Five of a Family...**

commented regarding the report so far.

Logar is among the relatively volatile provinces in central parts of the country, bordering capital Kabul in the east where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in some of its districts.

The latest attack by the Taliban insurgents resulting to civilian casualties comes as the latest UN report attributes the majority of the civilian casualties to the anti-government armed militant groups during the first six months of the year. (KP)

**(15) Major Taliban...**

cleared the building and managed to eliminate all four remaining militants at around 12 am local time.

The provincial government media office in a statement said a RPG rocket launcher, two AK-47 rifles, one communication device, 15 hand grenades, 15 RPG rockets, one vehicle, and the dead bodies of the insurgents were left in the area.

The statement further added that situation is normal in Greshk district at the moment and the security forces are in full control of the district.

According to the provincial government, more than 50 insurgents have been killed and dozens more have been wounded since they launched the attack late on Thursday night but the offensive was repulsed by the security forces with the support of the airpower. (KP)

**(16) Deadly Car ...**

manage to detonate it in the city. No further details have been given

regarding the exact location from where the car bomb seized and it is yet not clear where the militants were looking to detonate it.

NDS said more details regarding the operation will be released soon.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as the Taliban-led insurgency as well as insurgency led by the ISIS terrorist group has been rampant during the recent weeks in some of the key provinces and cities of the country.

Kabul city witnessed at two large attacks last week with one of the attacks carried out by the ISIS loyalists targeting the embassy of Iraq that resulted into the killing of two civil workers of the embassy while some others were wounded.

The Taliban group also carried out a suicide attack in Qarabagh district of Kabul on Thursday evening which left at least one NATO soldier dead along with two Afghan civilians while several others including NATO troops and Afghan civilians were wounded. (KP)

**(17) Taliban Insurgents...**

injuries during the airstrikes and several weapons and ammunition along with the explosives were destroyed.

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

Both Helmand and Uruzgan provinces are among the restive provinces in southern parts of the country where the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other insurgent groups are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities, including coordinated attacks.

The group carried out one of its largest attacks in Greshk district of Helmand province on Thursday night by launching coordinated car bombings and using Humvee armored personnel carriers to storm the security posts with an aim to capture the control of the district center. (KP)

**(18) NATO Soldiers ...**

creasing the number of troops it has in Afghanistan, was the latest in a series of so-called "green-on-blue" incidents that have complicated the training and assistance mission.

In June, three American soldiers were killed and seven wounded in two separate incidents, a week apart. In May last year, two members of the Romanian special forces were killed and a third was wounded when a local policeman opened fire on them. (Reuters)

**(19) Diesel, Ghee...**

commodity cost 50afs.

In food items, the price of only sugar has slightly declined. Food Traders Union head Fazal Rahman said the price of 49 kilograms of Pakistani sugar dipped from 2,030afs to 2,000afs. But he said 16 liters of Khurshid ghee cost 1,200afs, against last week's price of 1,120afs.

However, he said, the rates of other food items remained steady. The whole sale price of 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice accounted for 1,800afs and 50-kg of Kazakhstan flour for 1,200afs.

Noor Ahmad Khairkhwa, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afs and the same amount of African black tea 300afs -- same as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery shop in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 50-kg bag of Kazakhstan flour for 1,300afs and a 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,200afs.

He sold a 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,300afs, a 24-kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,000afs, a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300afs and the same quantity of African black tea for 350afs, higher than wholesale rates.

Gold prices also remain steady. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,300afs and the same quantity of Russian variety 1,850afs.

According to the moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 68.45afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 630afs against last week's rates of 68.40afs and 630afs respectively. (Pajhwok)