

(1) Ghani Claims ...

neighbor where he will inaugurate the TAPI gas line project on Sunday. The key gas line will export natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. (Tolonews)

(2) Iran to...

the both countries. Yazdani highlighted that the Afghan Minister welcomed technology transfer from Iran to Afghanistan especially in realms of successful experiences run in Iran like the EDGE technology for high-speed networking.

The Iranian official added that Iran had a bold role in reconstructing and reopening educational and training centers of communications in Afghanistan and that is why the Afghans are interested to enhance ties in those areas.

The visit made by Mr. Wahidi came after Afghans' interest in developing ICT and telecommunications relations with Iran, held Yazdani.

Afghan Minister of Communications and Information Technology headed a delegation to Tehran and arrived in the capital city of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday.

Getting familiar with the newest advancements of the communication industry, meeting with Iranian officials, and signing agreement were among the objectives of his two day visit.

He met with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Vaezi on Wednesday and the two sides signed three MoUs and agreements to develop networks, infrastructures and Post Bank in Afghanistan.

According to Afghan government, Iran is the best trade partner of the country and \$1.5 billion of commodity has been exported to Afghanistan in the last year. (MNA)

(3) Turkmenistan...

so far committed to the project that will cost as much as a third of Turkmenistan's total 2016 budget.

The only company known to be in talks on TAPI currently is Dubai-based Dragon Oil which produces oil off Turkmenistan's Caspian coast. Gazprom was also looking to join the project in the past.

The Turkmen government also said on Sunday it had signed a "framework agreement" with a consortium of Japanese and Turkish companies to implement the third stage of expansion at Galkynsh that will boost the field's output to 95 billion cubic metres (bcm) a year.

The consortium includes JGC Corporation, Mitsubishi, Itochu, Chiyoda and Sojitz of Japan as well as Calik Group of Companies and Ronens Endustri Tesisleri of Turkey.

The government did not disclose any other details such as the cost of expansion.

Galkynsh already supplies gas for a pipeline to China, the main buyer of Turkmen gas, which imports between 30 and 35 bcm per year. Russia, once Ashgabat's main customer, bought just 11 bcm of Turkmen gas in 2014 and will slash imports of the fuel to 4 bcm this year.

Russia's state gas company Gazprom, the world's biggest gas producer, is also preparing to start shipping gas to China via a pipeline, which is expected to start by the end of this decade. (Reuters)

(4) Mohaqiq Warns ...

Nabil's resignation, he said there is something behind Nabil's resignation and that he (Nabil) mentioned it in his resignation letter.

He mentioned that it is clear that Taliban is divided (into two major groups). "Now let's see what happens in the future. This could also pose more threats to Afghans," he continued.

He said government is at war with Taliban, but Taliban have strong defense lines in remote regions and mountainous areas.

Mohaqiq mentioned that Taliban is being backed extensively in Helmand province because of its close proximity to the border.

On the issue of terrorists, he said: "We are extremely concerned about the existence of all terrorist groups in Afghanistan."

He stated that war is ongoing in eastern regions including Nangarhar and Badakhshan and that people are destroyed in these areas.

"Daesh will likely gain strength in the north rather than southern regions in spring," he predicted.

He also mentioned that a public uprising is the key element to supporting security forces during battles when needed.

"When we talk public uprising, this covers the entire population of Afghanistan," he stressed.

In response to a query about the Council of Ministers' decision to in-

vestigate government officials if they attended any demonstration in work hours in future, Mohaqiq said that security force members do not have the right to attend demonstrations.

His comments come after President Ashraf Ghani attended the Heart of Asia Conference last week and also participated at the inauguration ceremony of TAPI pipeline project which is one of the biggest economic projects for war-weary Afghanistan. Ghani recently said that the peace talks - this time - will be resumed in weeks, not in years.

Afghan analysts have said they are hopeful about the TAPI project as well as the peace talks but both of them need serious measures which should be considered by the Afghan government. (Tolonews)

(5) World 'Met...'

energy revolution.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius ended nearly a fortnight of grueling UN negotiations on the outskirts of Paris with the bang of a gavel, marking consensus among the ministers, who stood for several minutes to clap and shout their joy, with some shedding tears of relief.

"I see the room, I see the reaction is positive, I hear no objection. The Paris climate accord is adopted," declared Fabius, the president of the talks. The post-2020 Paris Agreement ends decades-long rows between rich and poor nations over how to carry out what will be a multi-trillion-dollar campaign to cap global warming and cope with the impact of a shifting climate.

With 2015 forecast to be the hottest year on record, world leaders and scientists had said the accord was vital for capping rising temperatures and averting the most calamitous effects of climate change.

Without urgent action, they warned, mankind faced increasingly severe droughts, floods and storms, and rising seas that would engulf islands and coastal areas populated by hundreds of millions of people. (Tolonews)

(6) China to ...

Paris on the sidelines of the international climate summit -- envisages collective efforts by Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States to revive the moribund process.

Pakistan brokered the first-ever direct talks between Kabul and Afghan Taliban in the hill town of Murree in the first week of July.

A followup meeting was called off at the eleventh hour after Afghan officials leaked news of longtime Taliban leader Mullah Omar's death.

The quadrilateral initiative was discussed on Sunday between Chinese Ambassador in Kabul Yu Jing and Afghanistan National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar during a meeting at the latter's office, a statement from the National Security Council (NSC) said.

They also discussed the meeting between President Ashraf Ghani and Chinese foreign minister on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Conference in Islamabad.

The Chinese envoy said China would cooperate with Pakistan in meeting its promises with regard to bringing peace to Afghanistan and using the four nation platform effectively.

Representatives from the four countries who met in Islamabad had agreed to re-launch the peace process.

Pakistan had also promised to act against elements refusing to shun violence.

Atmar hoped the four countries would sincerely act on their pledges towards peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said peace in Afghanistan was in the best interest of the region. (Pajhwok)

(7) Senate Team...

concern is how the attackers entered the airport, did they enter with civilian or military clothes?" asked senator Rahmatullah Achakzai.

"With a majority of senators approving the move to establish a task team, the team will be sent to Kandahar for investigating the incident," said Mohammad Alam Ezidary, first deputy head of the house.

At least 14 attackers dressed in military uniforms attacked Kandahar Airport on Tuesday evening, leaving at least 54 people dead. The attack ended after 20 hours - once security forces had eliminated all insurgents. (Tolonews)

(8) Help Sought...

son is under siege with several other troops. They have been promised help but no attention has been paid to them so far. What are air force planes for - that they are not going to their help," asked the woman.

However, Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said militants

have been defeated in Marjah and that the security situation is improving there.

"There is no problem in Marjah. A militant attack occurred yesterday [Saturday] but they faced serious defeat [by security forces]," the spokesman said.

Waziri added: "Currently there is no security problem in Marjah and there is nothing to worry about."

With winter having set in in the northern and eastern parts of the country, militants appear to have focused attention on southern, warmer provinces - Helmand and Zabul. (Tolonews)

(9) First NAP ...

is disseminated to all Governmental institutions and departments where they are obliged to report back from the implementation status for the Ministry of foreign affairs on annual basis, the cooperation will be for 8 years, the deputy foreign Minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai said.

Minister of women affairs, Dilbar Nazari, said that "peace will set free Afghan women from war pressures, protect them from gender violence, economy safety insurance, and enable Afghan women to take part in peace process."

Suraiya Subrang the Afghanistan human rights commission commissioner said, "justice shouldn't be ignored by peace process, the war victims should receive serious attentions." National action plan based on United Nation Organization statement 1325 to be implemented for improving of Afghan women life by the Governmental and none Governmental departments for the next 8 years, and the financial supports for the program will be paid by European Union and some other International countries supporting the program. (ATN)

(10) UNSC Condemns ...

organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice, and urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Afghan authorities in this regard," said the statement.

Further, the Council members reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

They also reaffirmed and reiterated their determination to combat by all means, in accordance with the UN Charter and all obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

"The members of the Security Council reiterated that no violent or terrorist acts can reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability in Afghanistan, which is supported by the people and the Government of Afghanistan and by the international community," the statement concluded.

The attack started at about 6pm on Friday night when a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb outside the guest house. The insurgent blew open the wall into the property, enabling three other insurgents to enter. Kabul police confirmed on Saturday a ten-hour gunfight took place but ended when all three insurgents were killed.

"Two foreigners, five police and a civilian were killed in the attack, nine other civilians were wounded. The reason that the attack lasted so long was so we could avoid more casualties among the civilians," Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi said.

This attack came just days after Kabul and Islamabad agreed to resume peace talks with the Taliban. However the U.S has said that such attacks will not stop the resumption of peace talks.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued Sunday, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the Taliban's attack at the Spanish Embassy compound in Kabul and said it was an attack against the entire international community. (Tolonews)

(11) Paris Attacks...

Islamism, Professor Chomsky explained. Thus, before jumping in and bombing Daesh in the Middle East, the West needs to ask first and foremost why it occurred.

"If you want to end it, the first question you ask is: why did it take place? What were the immediate causes and what were the deeper roots?"

And then you try to address those," Professor Chomsky stated in an interview with activism Munich, an independent and non-profit global online media network.

Otherwise, the simple bombing strategy will do nothing but increase the likelihood of more terrorist attacks. Furthermore, Chomsky added that it's probably impossible to defeat Daesh by military force; but even if it happened and the West managed to destroy the terrorists, something worse would emerge in its place if the underlying root causes aren't properly addressed.

A series of suicide bombings and shootings shook Paris on November 13. Several extremists launched coordinated attacks across the city, killing some 130 people and injuring over 360 at several locations, including restaurants, the Bataclan concert hall and in the vicinity of the Stade de France stadium. (sputniknews)

(12) Refugees Face ...

rights in full and did not use force." Red Cross and UNHCR teams are offering assistance as much as they can, by providing them with winter clothes, hot meals, which are still not sufficient. At the Gvegljia reception camp, five large tents and around 10 houses, with the capacity to accommodate more than 1,000 people, have no heating. Only the small tents set up by UNICEF have heating. The rest of the facilities do not have the appropriate installation and there is no heating at all, reported Macedonian media. Meanwhile, in the northern border Tabanovce camps, the situation is even worse, where heating has not been installed at all and the three large tents and the two houses that have the capacity to accommodate 1,000 people in total, have not been warmed up at all.

A humanitarian worker declared that "I wonder how the competent people at the Ministry were surprised by the cold weather in December. When the migrants arrive at the reception center the first thing they ask about is why there isn't any heating and we don't know what to answer them." Humanitarian activists claim that this situation is due to the lack of inappropriate response by the Macedonia Labor and Social Policy Ministry. (Xinhua)

(13) Mayors to ...

Worldwide, there has been a global trend towards the creation of local government or municipal associations to provide municipalities with a stronger voice and greater capacity to influence national legislative bodies and other governmental institutions at the national level in relation to shared interests, concerns and priorities. Municipal associations now operate in over 120 countries. Municipal associations serve to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to meet citizen priorities and service delivery needs. They do so by performing four core services or functions on behalf of their membership: advocacy, information exchange, networking, and professional development.

Khoja Rohulla Seddiqi, Chaharikar Mayor, when asked his opinion regarding the establishment of the Municipal Network, replied, "Lack of a national network of municipalities has been an issue for mayors; through creation of provincial municipal networks, we can integrate programs, plans and implementation nationally that will lead to self-sustainability," said Khoja Rohulla Seddiqi, Mayor of Chaharikar in Afghanistan's Parwan Province. (Wadsam)

(14) 94 Projects...

equipped with hand pumps. Approximately, 13,695 families in various communities have been able to get access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. Since its inception in Logar province, the NSP has been able to execute 1,406 development projects in different sectors such as transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc while the work of another 472 is currently in progress in different communities. (PR)

(15) Leader of ...

Twitter page and said the leader of Turkistan Islamic Movement had shaven as he intended to escape from Zabol province.

No details on the place and manner of Qazi's death were released, but Akhtar Mansoor branch of Taliban has had heavy clashes with other militants in recent weeks.

Qazi became leader of the Turkistan Islamic Movement which comprises Uzbek militants in 2010.

Ossman Qazi's death comes just a week after the death of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor and less than two weeks after second Taliban leader Mullah Mansour Dadullah's death

body was found in the house of one of his followers.

Mullah Akhtar Mansoor and Mullah Mansour Dadullah replaced former Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar who was confirmed dead late in July.

The Akhtar Mansoor branch later rejected reports on his death, stressing that the Taliban leader was wounded, but alive. (FNA)

(16) Stoning ...

government doors to immolate them so that the Taliban become happy and the government sees it," Rukhshana's father Abdul Karim said. But Ghor police claim to have arrested one of the suspects.

However, Rukhshana's family reject these claims and say the person arrested by police is Rukhshana's uncle who according to them had no link to the murder.

"Police failed to catch the killers of Rukhshana. My brother who relocated Rukhshana's family from Ghalmin to the center of the province to avoid Taliban threats has now been arrested and government calls it an achievement," Rukhshana's uncle Abdul Qadir said.

Police however insist that the man arrested in connection with Rukhshana's murder is linked to the tragedy. They claim they have sufficient evidence to prove his ties to the stoning. "A suspect whom our detectives arrested in connection with the killing of Rukhshana has a criminal record lying with us. Police arrested him and handed him to the attorney general's office," Ghor police chief Mustafa Mohseni said. "So far they [government] have done nothing for us, they only transferred my mother to a safe house. But me and the rest of my family members are still homeless," Rukhshana's brother said.

Despite 28 individuals having been identified by security institutions for their part in the murder, none of them have so far been arrested. (Tolonews)

(17) Senior Iranian...

the 20 of those killed by their names and photos.

Meanwhile, Pakistani nationals recruited by the Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC) in Iran to fight for the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad have suffered more casualties in past few weeks, Reuters reported.

The increase in the number of casualties from the group this year indicates they are taking a more active role in the conflict, the report said.

"A posting in mid-November on a Twitter account bearing the group's name displayed the pictures of 53 men, described as fighters killed in battle. While there has been no official announcement of their total numbers, a regional source familiar with the issue said hundreds of Pakistanis were fighting in Syria," the report said.

"According to the group's postings on the internet, some of the Pakistanis fighting in Syria were already residing in Iran while the others come from a community of Pakhtun Shias from Parachinar. The Zainbayion started out as part of a unit of Afghan fighters called the Fatemiyoun, Smyth said. The Fatemiyoun have suffered heavy losses in Syria as evident from regular postings about casualties on hardliner Iranian sites. At least some of the Afghan fighters were lured to fight on promises of Iranian citizenship or steady monthly income," Reuters report said. (FNA)

(18) EU Border ...

But while big powers France and Germany support such EU power, other EU leaders may voice concerns at a summit on Thursday. Italy has pushed for a "Europeanisation" of external frontiers to relieve the costs on itself and Greece of policing the Mediterranean. But the plan may go too far for many leaders. (Reuters)

(19) Britain's ...

the Independent quoted a government source as saying.

The Telegraph, meanwhile, cited a senior British official as saying: "The four-year requirement is the basis for the discussions. That is the PM's idea but if there are other ideas that are better he would be willing to accept those."

The prime minister's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (AFP)

(20) French ...

best placed - the north where Le Pen is a candidate and the southeast where her niece Marion Marechal-Le Pen is running.

The Socialists urged their supporters to back Nicolas Sarkozy's conservatives in those two constituencies to keep the FN out of power, and a series of opinion polls have shown that voters might well be heeding that call.

"Voters should not be treated like

children, nor be terrorized," a smiling Marine Le Pen told reporters after casting her vote in Henin-Beaumont. (Reuters)

(21) Gambia ...

given their due respect. The way of celebrating Christmas will continue," he said, adding that no one had the right to interfere with others' "way of life".

He also warned against trying to impose a dress code on women.

"I have not appointed anyone as an Islamic policeman. The way women dress is not your business," he said. An impoverished former British colony nestled within Senegal, and famed for its white-sand beaches, the Gambia has a population of nearly two million, 90 percent of whom are Muslim. (AFP)

(22) 12 IS Militants...

Hawijah and were chased by extremist militants, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops managed to rescue five family members, including an eight-year-old child, while the other five have not been found yet by the troops who continued their operation in the rugged area, the source said.

During the past months, the IS militants have been preventing civilians from leaving their homes in IS-held cities and towns in order to use them as human shields against possible attacks. However, many managed to escape despite the IS threat to execute them, but many others failed. (Xinhua)

(23) Syria...

president step down at the start of any political transition.

But Al-Nusra Front chief Abu Mohamed al-Jolani rejected the outcome of the talks as a "plot" and accused rebels who had attended of "treason".

"It is a plot, not a conference. Such... gatherings must be foiled," said Jolani, the head of the Al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, in an interview with Dubai-based Syrian opposition television Orient News. (AFP)

(24) Singapore...

with the aim of peaking around 2030.

Adopted by the 196 Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement sets a target of holding the global average rise in temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and preferably below 1.5 degrees.

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan, who attended Paris climate change conference, said the deal may not be a "perfect agreement," but it would set the world "on a collective journey for climate safety," according to Channel NewsAsia. (Xinhua)

(25) China Makes...

talks and the fiasco of Copenhagen. On the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, the Paris agreement aims to hold global average temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and strives for limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Taking into account of the needs and priorities of developing countries, the agreement also eyes financing support of 100 billion U.S. dollars a year by developed to developing countries from 2020. (Xinhua)

(26) New Phase

plorations. A speedy development of gas fields in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea and the Galkynsh field is currently of great importance for the country. (Agencies)

(27) Uzbekistan ...

effectiveness of NGO activities in the context of implementation of the Law «On social partnership». The event was attended by the members of Lower House of the Parliament (Oliy Majlis) of Uzbekistan, senators, representatives of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, Ecological Movement, Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, Public Youth Movement of «Kamolot», «Mahalla» Public Charity Fund, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, Uzbek Society of disabled people, Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan "Tadbirkor ayol" and others, more than 500 people.

Summarizing the results of the forum, the participants noted the high practical relevance of the arrangements, their content and of particular importance in strengthening the role and place of NGOs in the democratic process for the formation of a strong civil society in the country. (Monitoring Desk)