

(1) Beijing Meeting ...

with our common interests, and is a good thing for us," the host foreign minister added. The meeting is expected to create a communication platform for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In June, during Wang's visits to Kabul and Islamabad, the three countries had agreed on setting up the mechanism to bring Pakistan and Afghanistan closer. Kabul blamed Islamabad for sheltering Taliban militants.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan, Khawaja Asif called peace the collective goal of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. Peace and development were in the interests of all the three countries, he argued.

Wang voiced optimism about the outcome of the dialogue -- part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative to strengthen relations and cooperation among the three nations.

Earlier, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said the foreign ministers would exchange views on mutual trust, reconciliation, development, security cooperation and counter-terrorism. (Pajhwok)

(2) Pine Nuts Direct ...

Minister Eklil Hakemi attended today session of the Mesharano Jirga, said Afghanistan could make \$650 million from direct export of pine nuts if the dried fruit's smuggling was prevented.

He added the government was committed to issuing loans to individuals who wanted to invest in pine nut business.

He added the Afghan diplomatic mission in Beijing had collected all necessary documents required for export of Afghanistan pine nuts to China and had dispatched those documents to the Agriculture Ministry.

The Agriculture Ministry also shared those documents with the government. Hakemi added the government strived to increase revenues in order to accumulate resources for the country's budget. "For this purpose, the government has started work on some revenue generating sources," said the finance minister whose ministry allocated 267 billion afghanis as general and over 90 billion as development budget for the ongoing fiscal year.

According to the ministry, over 47 percent of the total budget was supported by local revenues and the remaining by foreign aid. (Pajhwok)

(3) China Afghanistan's ...

process in Afghanistan led and owned by the Afghan people, he said.

The trilateral meeting, the first of its kind, is scheduled in Beijing on Tuesday (today). Wang said the meeting was aimed to set up a communication platform for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He called on the two countries to build trust, enhance understanding and improve ties.

Hailing China a reliable partner of Afghanistan, Rabbani said his country was ready to actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative, and enhance cooperation with China in areas of interconnectivity, infrastructure and energy. He expected to cement political trust through the trilateral foreign ministers' meeting, and jointly respond to development and security challenges. (Pajhwok)

(4) Senators Want ...

Other senators meanwhile discussed the war and peace issues in the country. "We hear from US forces and their commanders that they will stay in Afghanistan until the enemies are gone but no one says how long this war will continue and the people are paying the price for it," said Nader Baloch, a senator. "Daesh activities have increased as the group claimed responsibility for recent attacks. This proves the remarks by the Russian envoy who said there are 10,000 Daesh fighters in Afghanistan," said Najiba Husaini, a senator. The rift between the Presidential Palace and Jamiat has intensified after Atta Mohammad Noor, the Balkh governor, was removed from his post by the president last week. Noor has refused

to accept the decision and said he will stay on until his party decides otherwise. (Tolonews)

(5) Another Shipment ...

India's assistances to Afghanistan as beneficial. He expressed gratitude to India for consistent support and assistance.

Weesa also lauded India's continued assistance in the education sector and asked Bhandari to provide more scholarships for Afghan students.

The Governor called the Chabahar Port very valuable for the development of Afghanistan's economy. With the launch of the two other phases of the port, Afghanistan's trade relations would be further expanded with different countries, he hoped.

Meanwhile, Consul General Bhandari assured of more assistance by his country to Afghanistan and said India would always stand by Afghanistan. He said India was in favour of a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

The governor said the remaining wheat would soon reach Kandahar via Chabahar. Last month, foreign ministers of Afghanistan, India and Iran flagged off the maiden vessel carrying wheat from New Delhi to Kabul through the Chabahar port.

The first shipment of 15,000 metric tonnes of wheat from India arrived in Afghanistan via the Chabahar Port in Iran, formally operationalising the sea route in November.

The Indian government promised 1.1 million tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on a grant basis. (Pajhwok)

(6) Public-Private ...

home remained the same.

The government was also paying no attention to improving security for investors, and providing them other facilities such as loans, electricity and land, Alokozay said.

Afghans have invested millions of US dollars in foreign countries and they could shift their capital to Afghanistan if provided required facilities, he added.

Faizullah Zaki, labor and social affairs minister, also expressed concern over decreased investment and increased joblessness in the country. He said World Bank statistics showed 1.9 million people in Afghanistan were jobless.

Zaki said public-private partnership was the only solution to the two problems and there should be a clear plan in place in this regard. "Today's meeting is a good step forward toward resolving joblessness and improving coordination between the government and the private sector", he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Herat to Get ...

months TAPI project implementation will start in Afghanistan. The first step, the gas of the project will be used in Herat's industrial town and then will be used in houses," Ziaullhaq Popal, director of Herat mines and petroleum department said. Meanwhile, a number of members of Herat's provincial council said after the implementation of the TAPI project, the number of factories in Herat's industrial town will increase. "The main problem for our factory owners is power. TAPI project can resolve this problem," Wakil Ahmad Karokhi, a member of the council said. Herat governor's spokesman Jilani Farhad meanwhile said Herat security forces will maintain security of the project in the province. "There is no serious problem in the way of the implementation of TAPI project. In the meantime, necessary steps like recruitment of employees for the implementation of the project have been taken," said Farhad. TAPI pipeline project has the capacity to transfer 33 billion cubic meters of gas annually. The pipeline will be 1,800km long, of which 147km will cross Turkmenistan, 735km will run through Afghanistan's Herat, Farah, Helmand and Kandahar provinces, and 800km through Pakistan and then on to India. Afghanistan will earn \$400 million USD for the transit of gas to Pakistan and India annually. (Tolonews)

(8) Nangarhar ...

corruption related files to the authorities concerned in time.

Regarding alleged corruption in Nangarhar customs office, he said graft in the office was being exposed by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and its investigation was also NDS responsibility.

He claimed some government officials despite receiving the required forms were unwilling to register their assets.

Provincial Council members claimed corruption was commonly practiced as a culture in Nangarhar and anti-corruption authorities were doing nothing in this regard. Dr. Nasir Kamal, a local representative, told Pajhwok Afghan News that lawlessness and growing insecurity were main factors of corruption in society.

Rahmatullah Zyarmal, writer and activist, accused anti-corruption department and local official of not acting against corruption.

He said officials were involved in most of corruption cases and there was no one to stop them. (Pajhwok)

(9) Rashid Khan Ranked...

Adelaide Strikers on Friday.

"It means a lot to Afghanistan to play in such a big league," Rashid told reporters after the match. "And to then get player of the match - it was a dream to play in this league, so it's a proud moment for my country, for me, for my family."

Rashid is the first Afghan to play in the BBL Twenty20 competition, and starred in the Strikers' 53-run win over Sydney Thunder in Adelaide, late Friday. (Tolonews)

(10) Russian Security ...

(ISIS is the former name of IS, Islamic State, a terrorist group outlawed in Russia) is gaining ground in Afghanistan, posing a serious threat to Central Asian states and Russia.

"The number of gunmen in this organization is about 4,000 people and its ranks could swell even more. As usual, one of the key sources for financing terrorism come from drug trafficking revenues, which have grown more than 40-fold since the Americans came to Afghanistan," Patrushev went on.

"However, it is impossible to defeat terrorism without achieving national reconciliation taking into account the interests of all ethnic groups," he emphasized. He listed "the country's economy, the growing welfare of the population, declining unemployment, and higher levels of education" as the main conditions to bring peace back to Afghanistan. (TASS)

(11) Afghanistan's ...

Russia and the US "have complex relationship, but we must approach the subject objectively," Putin said.

He said that Taliban gunmen are stationed practically along the whole border between Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. However, encouraging signals are also seen in spite of everything, Putin stressed.

"I spoke with the president of Turkmenistan today, and he reiterated his plans to build a gas transmission system across Afghanistan and further to its neighbors - Pakistan and India," Putin said. "He invites us to participate. Generally, certain projects are indeed implemented there, and quite successfully, including by Turkmenistan. But we must take a look, of course, at how feasible projects of this kind will be," the Putin noted.

The appearance in Afghanistan of Daesh insurgents that have already begun confrontations with Taliban is an alarming factor, Putin said. "This additionally worsens the situation there," the president stressed. (Tolonews)

(12) MoF Collects ...

improving people's lives and their economic situation.

"We will reach economic and political stability when the approaches are chosen based on the country's current situation," economic affairs analyst Abdul Wasi Haidari said. The finance ministry also said it hopes that the new budget for 2018 is approved by parliament soon so that development projects can start early. (Tolonews)

(13) Suspected U.S. ...

office in January.

Trump has taken a hardline stance on Pakistan, which he says provides safe haven to terrorists including the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network carrying out attacks in Afghanistan.

Tuesday's suspected drone attack targeted the vehicle of a militant commander named Jamiuddin, said the Pakistani official, who is based in the area, speaking on condition of anonymity, added that it also killed an associate of the commander.

A senior member of the Haqqani network told Reuters: "Maulvi Jamiuddin was our trusted man. He was part of our organisation and used to facilitate our fighters during their movement inside Afghanistan."

He added that Jamiuddin was travelling in his car in Pakistan's Kurram region and that none of his associates were killed in the attack. "Jamiuddin stopped the car ... for conversation on his cellular phone when the drone fired two missiles and killed him on the spot," another Haqqani member said.

Rehmanullah, a resident of the area who uses only one name, said he saw the strike near the Mata Sanghar area of Kurram agency, across from the Afghan province of Paktia.

"I saw two missiles hit the vehicle and the people inside were killed," he told Reuters by telephone.

An increase in drone strikes that hit inside Pakistani territory is one of the steps U.S. officials have said could be taken if Islamabad does not end safe havens for militants.

Pakistan has sought to play down several recent drone strikes inside the border, with officials saying they were on the Afghan side even though local residents said they were in Pakistan.

In October, three suspected strikes in two days killed 31 people who officials said belonged to the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network, allied to the Taliban.

Those attacks came days after a Canadian-American couple held hostage by the Taliban were freed from the area in Pakistan's northwest, striking a rare positive note in the country's often-fraught relations with the United States. (Reuters)

(14) Balkh Police ...

announced support for Noor.

But Sadat said the deputy police chief behavior was based on emotions and mistake. "The MoI watches such statements," he added. Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak recently said police could not make a political stance or interfere in politics.

Zabihullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman for the Jamiat party and a friend of Atta Mohammad Noor said that the use of force was not in their plans.

"We have talked about civil movements, if the Presidential Palace does not positively respond to us, we would organize civil movements in the whole of the country," he said.

But he said if any force was used against them, it would be counterproductive.

On the other hand, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) said it would soon introduce the new governor for Balkh in a special ceremony.

The Jaimat party says they have no intention with IDLG. (Pajhwok)

(15) NAS Passes...

five times.

An internationally-recognised system for assessing operational management and control systems for ground handling service providers, ISAGO is based on industry-proven quality audit principles and follows a stringent process that reviews training, policies, procedures, etc.

Hassan El Houry, NAS CEO, said: "Our latest ISAGO certification in NAS Afghanistan demonstrates our continued focus on high levels of service quality, safety and security." "As we continue to grow our reach and expand our portfolio of products and services, we remain committed to strengthening our presence in and contribution to the countries that we operate in."

In Afghanistan, NAS partners with Ariana Afghan Airlines to form

the Ariana-NAS joint venture. Ariana-NAS, the exclusive ground handler at Kabul International Airport, also provides services at the Herat and Kandahar airports. Through its operations at the three major airports in Afghanistan, NAS serves more than 3,000 flights and over 900,000 passengers a year.

Reinforced with an employee base of 360 and over 175 pieces of ground-support equipment, NAS significantly contributes to areas of employment, training and infrastructure development. (Pajhwok)

(16) 4 Districts of ...

Another 99 cases are currently being processed by courts and 31 by his office. Some 26 cases have been referred to relevant organisations, according to the official.

There were no prosecutors in four districts of the province, he said, adding that no case had been recorded in several districts. Orya said they had also received 413 cases from detective organs.

The cases include land-grab, forgery, drugs, misuse of authority, weapons smuggling, graft, murder, moral corruption, traffic accidents and violence against women. During the same period, he said, 195 cases from districts, 413 from intelligence organs, 81 of violence against women, 106 involving children and 336 of public security were registered.

Orya said he was working in cooperation and coordination with relevant organisations, including the governor's house and judicial organs. He claimed putting in place a system of punishment and reward.

He said practical training opportunities were also created for 75 law and political science students, including 19 women. (Pajhwok)

(17) Etisalat Gives ...

Etisalat's customers.' He further said, 'We appreciate our customers' loyalty and partnership with Etisalat and strive to put them at the forefront of our duties and responsibilities.'

Dr. Salah also congratulated the winner and reiterated on partnering Afghans in various areas of life and providing them with world class voice and data services.

Fareedullah, winner of the car, said 'When I first heard that I had won a car, I couldn't believe. Winning a car is something I had never thought about. I would like to thank Etisalat for a transparent lucky draw and delivering their promise.'

Etisalat will give away two more cars for its customers through lucky draw in the coming months. The company encourages its customers to recharge their Etisalat SIM cards and stand a chance to be the next winner. Customers spending 100Afs or more in a week can get a chance to enter Etisalat's monthly and weekly lucky draws and win a car and many other valuable gifts.

Etisalat Loyalty Program is Etisalat's way of saying thanks to its customers by providing them with valuable incentives. In it, customers can earn points for using any of Etisalat's services and can redeem them with numerous gift items, pay bills, buy airline tickets or talk-time. (PR)

(18) Dozens of Militants ...

There has been so far no word from militant groups in this regard.

In Farah province, three insurgents were killed and a fourth wounded in Karez Landy area of Shebkoh district on Monday, police spokesman said. Iqbal Bahir added the militants suffered casualties when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb they had planted themselves. Their weapons were also destroyed as a result of the explosion. (Pajhwok)

(19) First Ever Indoor...

a resident of Kabul.

Cricket players said they see it as a big opportunity to improve their skills in the sport. "We went to other places too, but this is a venue with all facilities and we are happy for that. It can improve cricket and it is a big step," said Ezatullah, a cricket player. "When we started playing cricket, we had an ambition. Fortunately, that dream has come true; we have an indoor academy now," said Sakhidat, another cricket player. (Tolonews)