

(1) ARG Advisor ...

commitments stated in the accord and that both sides are satisfied with the progress to date.

Karim emphasized that the removal of Hekmatyar's name shows political discussions are the "only logical way to achieve peace in Afghanistan".

He also stated that the international community has shown they support the Afghan-led peace process. Meanwhile, the High Peace Council's deputy chief Abdul Khabir Ochqon said that peace negotiations between Hizb-e-Islami took seven months to complete.

He also thanked the United Nations and the Afghan government for securing the removal of Hekmatyar's name from the sanctions list.

The political head of Hizb-e-Islami Ghairat Bahir in turn thanked President Ashraf Ghani and the United Nations for having taken the step and said all articles of the agreement have so far been addressed and are in the process of being implemented.

Late Friday the United Nations Security Council ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee removed the name of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from its sanctions list.

The security council committee said "pursuant to resolutions 1267 and 2253 concerning Daesh, Al-Qaeda and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities," it has removed the name of Hekmatyar from the Daesh and Al-Qaeda Sanctions List.

"The assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2253 (2015) no longer apply to the name set out below," read the UN notice on Hekmatyar.

This comes after Hizb-e-Islami last year signed a peace accord with the Afghan government. (Tolonews)

(2) UN Removes ...

the U.S. and the United Nations to remove him and his party from terrorist blacklists. Hekmatyar signed the agreement via a video link to Kabul's presidential palace. The ceremony was broadcast live on television at the time.

The 25-point peace agreement gives Hekmatyar and his followers immunity for past actions and grants them full political rights.

"The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has taken all the necessary measures for a respectable, safe, and honorable welcoming and we have taken all security measures according to the protocol. We are waiting for his (Hekmatyar) return and we don't have any problem in this regard," said Akram Kholwaj, a political affairs adviser to the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Kholwaj added that joint commission work is underway for the implementation of the other articles of the main agreement between the government and the Hezb-i-Islami such as releasing Hezb-i-Islami prisoners whose files have been finalized and accepting the return of the refugees who couldn't return to their homeland earlier from different provinces.

Hekmatyar battled the Soviets in the 1980s and then took part in the civil war that erupted after their withdrawal, clashing with the so-called Northern Alliance. He was driven out when the Taliban seized power in 1996, but returned after the American invasion, vowing to resist what he termed the foreign "occupation."

His forces were largely confined to just two provinces, however, and have carried out few attacks in recent years. He is believed to be in hiding somewhere in the eastern Kunar province, where he enjoys popular support, and makes occasional trips into Pakistan through the nearby border. (AP)

(3) Russia Concerned...

State group, its aspirations to acquire other units of the armed opposition."

Russia is ready to favor process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan in the framework of consultations on the Afghan problems, the ministry said in the commentary.

"We consider as important directions the continuing military-technical cooperation with Kabul, support in improvement of combat capacity of the Afghan national security forces, as well as training of the republic's military and police personnel by Russian respective authorities," the Foreign Ministry said.

"A major event in development of the cultural contacts between our countries would be a due opening of the Russian center for sciences and culture in Kabul," the Russian ministry said, commenting on developing cooperation with Afghanistan in the humanitarian sphere. (TASS)

(4) Police Impose ...

charges being imposed by police on the country's highways. At the time, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah vowed to address the problem.

However, drivers said the illegal taxes are still being imposed on a number of highways. (Tolonews)

(5) 21 Hydropower ...

four additional turbines would be installed, was underway.

According to him, the studies show Bagh Dara dam could produce 250 megawatts of electricity, the Kunar dam 320mw, Kokcha dam 250mw, Badakhshan 250mw, Sarwibi-2 200mw and four additional turbines in Kajaki 100mw.

Afghanistan could produce another 500MW of electricity from wind, 100MW from gas and as many from coal resources, the deputy minister said. He said the mentioned projects were expected to be completed in the next five years at a cost of \$5 billion.

Ghalib said the World Bank (WB) had assured of providing \$2billion for these projects and \$1 billion would come from the private sector as per the agreement signed with them.

The remaining \$2 billion would be paid by the government with some assistance from the international community.

Abdul Basir Azimi, the Energy and Water Ministry spokesman, said the Kajaki-2 project would be carried out by a Turkish company by investing \$200 million and the Sarobi-2 would be completed with an investment of \$300 million by the Alokozai Group of Companies.

Besides, Azimi said a local company 'Pawer Bayat' would invest amount \$200 million in the energy sector to produce 50MW of electricity by using coal. Construction work on the Shah Wa Aros dam in Kabul's Shakar Dara district has been ongoing and work on Bakhsabad dam in Farah and the rehabilitation of Chak dam in Maidan Wardak province would be soon.

According to Da Afghanistan Brishna Shirkat (DABS), 280MW to 320MW of power is currently produced in Afghanistan and 1,000MW electricity is imported from Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

The deputy water and energy minister said Afghanistan currently needed 2,000MW of power, which would be met with implementation of the mentioned projects.

Though master plans and urbanization would increase power demand, Afghanistan has the potential to produce 318,000MW of power.

In the past two years, initial studies on 21 medium and small size dams were conducted in various provinces. The dams would help store water and irrigate fields, Azimi said.

According to him, Shoraba dam in Sar-i-Pul, Chahar Kant dam in Balkh, Dehna Dara dam in Faryab's Pashunkot district, Aba Kili dam in Samangan's Khuram Sarbagh district, Khanabad Dowam Dam in Kunduz's Khanabad district, Sori Khola Dam in Chamkani district of Paktia, Kandahar's Arghistan district water storing Lawara dam, Uruzgan's Aghajan Dam in Jora district, construction of the third phase of Kamal Khan Dam in Chahar Borjak district of Nimroz, Khost's water storing dam in Dwa Mandi district, and water storing dam in Alingar district of Laghman are among the 21 dams initial studies of which have been carried out.

Other dams include Paltoni dam in Shahrana district of Paktika, Aabtak storage dam in Khoshi district of Logar, Zardalo storage dam in Qarabagh district of Ghazni, Dahnai Ghorbandak storage dam in Shaikh Ali district of Parwan, Aab Gazak storage dam in Yakawlang district of Bamyan, Ghodar storage dam in Shahrstan district of Daikundi, Aab Shora storage dam in Aabkamari district of Badghis, Tiropol hydropower and storage dam in Kohsan district of Herat, Dehnai Boom storage dam in Chaghcharan district of Ghor, and Zara Mardan storage dam in Bala Buluk district of Farah.

Azimi said a number of companies had shown interest in conducting basic studies of dams. He said it was set contracts for fundamental studies would be signed with companies through bidding in the two next days.

Construction of all the 21 dams would take seven years, he said, adding the cost of the dams would be specified after their fundamental studies. But it was estimated that each dam would nearly cost \$100 million.

Construction of the 21 and some other dams will pave the ground for watering 500,000 hectares of land across the country, Azimi concluded.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), totally 7.9 million hectares of arable land exists in Afghanistan, but currently 3.6 million hectares of the land is being utilized. (Pajhwok)

(6) Justice Ministry ...

ministry, a large number of rural residents have little access to legal services - a problem that will hopefully be overcome following the launch of this new center. (Tolonews)

(7) World Cancer...

said it took months for her problem to be diagnosed. Once diagnosed she underwent surgery at the Cancer Treatment Center, she said.

"The 400-bed hospital diagnosed my illness and then I was sent to the center for surgery," Freba said.

Meanwhile, the head of the non-contagious diseases department at the Ministry of Public Health, Fahim Paigham, said facilities to treat cancer patients are scarce in the country.

"Serious types of cancer, which requires specialized treatment and care, cannot be treated in the country," he said. (Tolonews)

(8) Fuel, Sugar...

Rahman, said that the price of 49kg of Pakistani sugar has decreased from 2,320afis to 2,270afis due to its high imports.

But he said the prices of other food items remain unchanged. he said a 49kg bag of Kazakhstan flour cost 1,150afis, 16-kg tin of Khurshid ghee 1,100afis and a 24.5kg bag of Pakistani rice was priced at 1,550afis.

Haji Rahmatullah, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Madina green tea cost 240afis and the same amount of African black tea 260afis, the same rates as of last week's.

Ahmad Sharif Malik, who owns a grocery store in Taimani neighborhood, said, 49kg of Kazakhstan flour was sold for 1,250afis, 49kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,350afis, 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,180afis, 24.5kg sack of Pakistani rice for 1,700afis, a kilo of Madina green tea for 280afis and the same quantity of African black tea for 300afis - higher than wholesale prices.

Gold prices also remain steady this week. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,250afis and the same quantity of Russian variety 1,750afis.

According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 68.85afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 615afis against last week's rates of 66.80afis and 613afis. (Pajhwok)

(9) Jalalabad Mayor...

parks. This year, we plan to plant more than 20,000 saplings. For watering the plants, we will set up a modern irrigation system run by solar power."

All departments of the municipality had been connected through the Internet now, Afghan said, adding a secure database had been established for the distribution of permits. The attendance system for government employees has been computerized.

"We have also destroyed a large quantity of expired and low-quality food and non-food items. We also buried the dead with no inheritors," the mayor explained.

Afghan promised gravelling 10 kilometres of roads during the current fiscal year. Thousands of square metres of roads would be asphalted, parks constructed in Shanzada-Familio and other areas. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan Pushes...

recent years, have now shifted their focus to border security to stop the cross-border movement of the militants. There is no doubt that any border control mechanisms instituted will yield useful results when both countries implement the measures on their respective sides and boost the monitoring of the porous perimeter.

Military spokesperson, Major General Asif Ghafoor, said on February 1 that the leadership of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TIP has been "living in Afghanistan for a long time," which security officials describe as a serious challenge for anti-terrorism efforts.

Afghanistan has never officially admitted the presence of the Pakistani Taliban on their soil and also says their armed opponents live in Pakistan.

As Pakistan and Afghanistan are still facing serious security problems, they need a joint understanding on a strong border management system on both sides to check illegal border crossings.

Pakistan had deployed a total of 34,000 Frontier Corps personnel along the border after the U.S. launched its military action against the Taliban in 2001. Pakistani officials said more units of the paramilitary Frontier Corps are being trained for new check posts to be established along the Afghan border.

Pakistan Army Chief General, Qamar Javed Bajwa, who assumed office on November 30, has spoken twice with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani by phone and suggested a "robust border management mechanism." General Bajwa, in his meetings with some foreign military leaders, including the U.S. Central Command chief General Joseph Votel, also reiterated his call for an effective and coordinated border management with Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials said that the Pakistani Taliban militants who had claimed responsibility for major terrorist attacks in the country, particularly in the northwest Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and southwestern Balochistan provinces, entered Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The killing of several key Pakistani Taliban leaders in Afghanistan in U.S. drone strikes have strengthened Pakistan's stance on the presence of the Pakistani militants on the Afghan side of the border.

United States and Afghan officials have also confirmed the killing in Afghanistan of Pakistani Taliban leaders, in-

cluding Omar Mansoor, also known as Narai, the mastermind of the 2014 terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar that killed 150 people, mostly students.

Pakistani national Hafiz Saeed Khan, Daesh chief for the Khorasani region, was killed in a U.S. drone attack in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar last year. Daesh spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, also a Pakistani national, was killed in a U.S. drone strike along with dozens of the group's activists in Afghanistan in 2015.

The U.S. said in May that a drone strike killed the Afghan Taliban chief, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

Besides border management, the Pakistani military and other law enforcing agencies are carrying out combing and intelligence-based operations in the suspected hideouts of the militants and their facilitators, mostly in urban areas. This strategy has been adopted to ward off the possible threats by the remnants of the Taliban, who are believed to have taken shelter in cities. (Xinhua)

(11) Gym for Women ...

city, as well."

Nazari got interested in exercise while living in Russia and Uzbekistan. When she returned to Afghanistan, she started her business, but it was difficult at first. Cultural values and the novelty of a women-only gym meant she had to work hard on the marketing, educating women and their families about the benefits of exercise.

Now, things have changed for her and her center.

Zuhul, who like many Afghans go by one name, is a regular member. She told VOA that she joined the facility six months ago and is quite grateful.

"Those who work out here are very happy with the initiative. This facility has made it possible for women to get out of their houses and come here to exercise," Zuhul said. "Now we can pay better attention to our health and well-being."

Even after five years in business, Nazari feels social pressure about her work from more conservative friends and relatives. But she remains committed to the business.

"It is inevitable for women to run into problems when they decide to break with tradition and get out of the house to work," Nazari said. "But I believe that we have to fight the emerging problems for the development of women."

Women in Afghanistan remain subject to all kinds of restrictions and limitations on their movement, but Ladies World is one place that provides an environment for them to meet outside their homes.

The center has flexibility in its operating hours to accommodate women who cannot work out on a set schedule because of competing family priorities. (VoA)

(12) Owners of ...

would reach us on a priority. Weeks on, neither anyone wiped off our tears nor listened to our complaints. There is no one to help us," he remarked.

Malik Qaheer, another tribal elder, accused Daesh insurgents of setting alight more than 1,000 homes. But the government had not yet given the victims any recompense, he grumbled.

He said they victims had been assured of help, but there was no sign of such assistance being delivered. "We believe government officials have divided the aid among themselves."

Yet another elder from the area, Haji Samkani, said they would travel to Kabul if the local authorities continued to drag their feet on the humanitarian issue.

A group of elders is ready to go to Kabul and stage a protest in front of the Presidential Palace and parliament building besides taking up the issue with higher-ups, according to Samkani.

The Kot district chief, Haji Syed Rahman, agreed the affected people had yet to receive aid. As the area was under Daesh control, officials had been unable to conduct a survey and hence the delay, he argued.

Rahman said they could barely confirm the torching of 80 houses, but people claimed the burning of nearly a thousand homes. He plans to ensure security in the area by establishing security checkpoints before surveying the victims. (Pajhwok)

(13) Afghanistan-A...

remained not out after scoring 4 runs with Tendai Chatara who scored 13 runs.

The runs and overs of the match were reduced applying the Duckworth-Lewis method with the Afghan team requiring 162 runs from 40 overs.

Afghanistan chased the given target by losing 4 wickets and 21 balls remaining. Karim Sadiq scored 14 runs, Imran Janat 4 runs, Younas Ahmadzai 30 runs, Noor-ul-Haq 47 runs, Waheedullah Shafaq remained not out after scoring 51 runs with shafiqullah who scored 8 runs. (KP)

(14) Child Suicide...

recorded at 48 children recruited by the

parties involved in the conflict.

The report also expressed concerns regarding the use of seminaries in the tribal regions along Durand Line for recruitment of children.

In the meantime, the arrest of the child bomber in Helmand comes as the Taliban group has intensified attacks in this province in the past one week.

The group launched numerous attacks on key districts during the past one week which resulted into deadly clashes, leaving numerous militants and security forces dead or wounded. (KP)

(15) Road Encroachments ...

us. We will not occupy any place if the authorities offer us a specific area for installation of stalls."

Ahmad Rafi, another vendor, said: "We will move our stalls to everywhere the government allots to use."

Ghulam Ghous Neikbin, deputy head of the municipality, said specific places for vendors and stall owners would be arranged in coming six months.

However, the municipality and police had failed to honour their previous pledges of arranging a specific place for vendors and stall owners in the city. (Pajhwok)

(16) 8 Die in Past...

will reopen once the weather improves," the ANDMA deputy head Mohammad Aslam Siyas said.

Meanwhile, Husain Sharifi Balkhabi, an MP from Sar-e-Pul, blamed government of not paying enough attention to rescuing people trapped in avalanches in the province.

"Lack of capacity and coordination as well as their late response to the incidents has raised people's concerns and complaints," Balkhabi said. (Tolonews)

(17) Raped 20 ...

given a deterrent punishment. Saifuddin, father of the victim, said: "We thank police officials and ask the government and judiciary to punish the criminals." But Noor Agha, the man arrested by police, said he was in Kabul. He quoted the girl as saying that she had been engaged to an elderly man by her parents. "In telephone contact, she told me she herself would come to my home if I don't return home. When I returned from Kabul, she was with my family," the detainee claimed.

The man said he later invited tribal elders to the girl's family about the issue and "they engaged the girl to me in return for 120,000 afghanis".

He said he had already paid 50,000 afghanis in dowry, accusing the girl's parents of painting the marriage as a kidnapping case after he refused pay the rest of the amount.

"Yasmin is my honour and I would not let her go away even if I'm killed," the man said, making clear his intention to stay in conjugal union with the girl. (Pajhwok)

(18) Public Reps...

We were forced to walk three hours.

"As a result, a policeman was wounded and a public representative, Nasser Ahmad Faqiri, got seriously sick," the public representative said.

He did not go into details how the policeman was injured but said the provincial council head and other members were currently staying at a mosque. That are in urgent need of emergency aid.

Meanwhile, the Gilan district chief said the Kabul-Kandahar highway had been blocked in Hasan Karez area. "Taliban have blown up a culvert on the highway. The snow has blocked the highway, with vehicles stranded on both sides, causing difficulties for passengers."

Roads in district are also closed, with some areas lashed by more than half a metre of snowfall. A resident of Maqur district, Ehsanullah, said: "This much snow has fallen for the first time in our district."

Governor Abdul Kareem Matin confirmed the continued snowfalls had cut off all districts from the Ghazni City. "There has been severe snowstorms ongoing in some districts and cleaning the roads is difficult in snowstorms."

He added the issues had been shared with authorities and the districts would be cleared in accordance with a plan and the roads reopened for traffic. (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 Dead Bodies ...

brought to Mashkona area, he said. The dead men aged between 30 and 40 were shifted to Khost Civil Hospital for forensic investigation, Ghairat said. Provincial Civil Hospital Director Dr. Mohammad Mangal confirmed receiving two bodies. (Pajhwok)

(20) Militants Kill ...

identity of the deceased, Masood said the victim did not have any issues and enmity with any individual or group. He said an investigation is underway to find out the main motive behind the assassination of the cleric.

In the meantime, reports suggest the victim had joined peace process in this province around three years ago.

No group including the Taliban insurgents has so far claimed responsibility

behind the incident. (KP)

(21) Badakhshan ...

snow with the help of locals. The injured are being evacuated to the Mayami district clinic."

The ANDMA director said at least 10 people were killed and another 12 wounded in the avalanche. With the rescue effort still underway, the death toll might rise, the official indicated.

Abdullah Naji Nazari, the provincial council head, said efforts were being made to dispatch two choppers to Mayami district for providing first aid to the wounded people and victims' families. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) could provide the choppers as there was no other way of rescuing the wounded, he explained, saying all the roads had been blocked by snow. (Pajhwok)

(22) Nimroz Woman ...

this death resulted from domestic violence," she said, stressing the need for an end to such incidents.

A security official, who wished to go unnamed, said three suspects including a woman had been arrested in connection with the death.

"According to the detainees, the couple had taken an ailing child to a clinic. The man returned home from the clinic on his motorcycle. Her wife also arrived later at her home in a rickshaw," the official said.

The source added the woman's travel in a rickshaw enraged her husband, who dragged his wife by her hair to the rooftop and threatened her. (Pajhwok)

(23) Arrested...

Separately, eight kg of opium was confiscated at a checkpoint near Zaranj and both cases the cases were being investigated. (Pajhwok)

(24) Snow Lashes ...

are utilized."

He said earlier less rainfall had been predicted in the province; but against the prediction snow fell for a second time and now more rain was expected.

Masood, a resident and a shopkeeper in Zaranj city, said: "Inshallah, there will be more snowing and raining." He said the snow and rainfalls would increase water in rivers and reduce diseases associated with dry spell. (Pajhwok)

(25) France, U.S.

particularly in the Middle East, the Near East and Ukraine," it added.

According to the statement, Ayrault invited Tillerson to visit France soon. (Xinhua)

(26) French President ...

United States in this case, aims at changing the situation and adopts unilateral and protectionist measures. "What matters is solidarity at the EU level. We must not have the illusion of some sort of external protection," he said. "We in France have a defence policy. We fear nothing...We must have a European conception of our future. If not, there will be, in my opinion, no Europe and not necessarily any way for each of the countries to be able to exert an influence in the world," he added. (Xinhua)

(27) EU Hails ...

route. Among the top priorities were training, equipment and support to the Libyan national coast guard, further efforts to disrupt smuggling business, and supporting the development of local communities in Libya. To cover the most urgent funding needs now and throughout 2017, the European Commission has decided to mobilize as a first step an additional 200 million euros (216 million U.S. dollars) for the North Africa window of the Fund and to give priority to migration-related projects concerning Libya. (Xinhua)

(28) BRIC Economist ...

Sachs, put out his BRIC paper. Since then, BRIC nations have exceeded his expectations. And, as he explained in a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua, China is the lead among these four nations and is a major, beneficial player in the world economy. "Globalization is clearly, as President Xi Jinping said in Davos, a really good thing for mankind," said O'Neill. (Xinhua)

(29) Nearly 30,000...

"This agreement is frail, and if the 3 million migrants decide to start their journey towards Europe, this could be quite dangerous, just as the ones fleeing poverty from Africa," the director warned. (Xinhua)

(30) UN Secretary...

to the office, at least seven people were killed and 41 injured in shelling between January 29 and February 3.

UN Human Rights Office teams were visiting locations and verifying reports of civilian casualties in both Donetsk city and Avdiivka, which were reportedly hit by shelling during the evening of February 2, said Dujarric. (Xinhua)

(31) US Not Weighing...

have the capability to do so. But right now I don't think it's necessary." The United States has already sent a Navy destroyer to patrol off the coast of Yemen to protect waterways from Houthi militia aligned with Iran. (Reuters)