

(1) US Targets Chinese...

a Cold War workhorse — had recently been modified to carry more munitions, the military said in a statement.

The camps in remote Badakhshan province supported Taliban operations within Afghanistan and by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement — set up by members of China's minority Uighur community — on the border region with China and Tajikistan, the military said.

"There will be no safe haven for any terrorist group," Gen. John Nicholson, the head of US Forces in Afghanistan, said in a statement Thursday.

"We continue to hunt them across the country."

Hecker said the strikes "support Afghanistan in reassuring its neighbors that it is not a safe sanctuary for terrorists who want to carry out cross border operations."

According to NBC Hecker added that the destruction of the training facilities would prevent "terrorists from planning any acts near the border with China and Tajikistan."

China blames violence in its far-western Xinjiang region, home to some 10 million Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority, on Islamist extremists and separatists, some of whom it has long said have links to groups outside the country. Rights groups and Uighur exiles counter that unrest is due more to Uighur frustration at Chinese controls on their culture and religion. China denies any repression. (Tolo news)

(2) Family of Slain...

in the central parts of Faizabad city.

"I was told that my recommendation letter is at the Presidential Palace and it will be approved. Last time I was in Kabul for one month and this time it is 20 days that I am here. I have had to stay in houses of people and in a hotel with my younger daughter," Jahan Ara said.

The Interior Ministry's deputy spokesman Nusrat Rahimimeanwhile said the ministry has provided two apartments and other assistance to the family.

"Some of the work is done and parts of the process have remained. When the process is complete, they will be given two apartments that have been promised by the Interior Ministry," said Rahimi.

The Interior Ministry has arrested two suspects in connection with the incident, he said.

Badakhshan has on a few occasions witnessed incidents in which women are shot dead by armed groups.

Last year, armed groups killed a number of people, including women, in areas out of government's control. (Tolo news)

(3) Uzbek FM, Iranian...

Iranian people. During the meeting, the sides discussed prospects for the development of bilateral relations in the context of the implementation of agreements reached at the meeting of the two countries' presidents in Astana on Sept. 2017.10.

Meanwhile, an exchange of views was held on a number of regional problems, including the situation in Afghanistan. The two sides noted the importance of joint international efforts to start the process of political settlement of the Afghan crisis. The Iranian president supported the initiative of Uzbekistan to hold an international conference on Afghanistan, "Peace process, cooperation in the field of security and regional cooperation on Afghanistan". Other political and economic issues of mutual interest were also discussed at the meeting. (Trend)

(4) Pakistan-Afghanistan...

two sides held "good" discussions with "some agreements" but said, "further work [was] required". He said Pakistani Foreign Secretary TehminaJanjua

and Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai led their respective delegations comprising senior civilian and military officials.

However, an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement issued in Kabul after Saturday's talks categorically said the discussions made no headway on matters related to deteriorating security in Afghanistan, reported Voice of America.

"While some progress was made on the mechanism of cooperation, no progress was achieved on specific, results-oriented, time-bound measures in the APAPPS, particularly in the areas of counter-terrorism, reduction of violence, peace and reconciliation to meet the priorities of Afghanistan," according to the statement.

The Afghan government alleges the Taliban use sanctuaries on Pakistani soil to plot insurgent attacks and claimed last month's bloody attacks in Kabul were planned in the neighbouring country. Afghan officials also shared what they called "evidence" with Islamabad and demanded swift action against the perpetrators.

Pakistan denied any links to the spate of attacks in the Afghan capital and maintains no Taliban sanctuaries are present on its side of the border. Islamabad has also offered to conduct joint investigations into the recent violence.

For its part, Islamabad also alleges militants conducting terrorist attacks in Pakistan use sanctuaries on Afghan soil for plotting the violence. The allegations and counter allegations have plunged bilateral relations to new lows in recent years.

Saturday's talks also covered subjects such as repatriation of around three million Afghan refugees from Pakistan and joint economic development.

Pakistani officials insist the prolonged presence of the refugee community coupled with "inadequate" border security on the Afghan side hamper Islamabad's counterterrorism efforts.

The United States has also increased pressure on Pakistan to take action against alleged militant sanctuaries, including those of the Haqqani terrorist network. Islamabad asserts the country is being scapegoated for US "failures" to secure Afghanistan. (Monitoring Desk)

(5) Entrance Exams...

and Nangarhar provinces. The Silab Corps also added that only 48 people passing the exams with higher marks will be enrolled in the Afghan Sandhurst Military Academy for the training.

The cadets will complete 18 months of theoretical and practical classes in the academy and will join the Afghan army ranks after their graduation. (KP)

(6) First Yoga Center...

relationship between the brain and the body," said Sultan.

"Yoga is useful for the mental wellbeing of a human being," said Sowita, another student. The participants are being taught by Indian yoga instructor Ghulam Askar Zaidi.

Zaidi said practicing yoga prevents many diseases and that it is practiced by people in over 170 countries around the world.

Yoga originated in India and caught on a few years ago in Afghanistan.

The first yoga center was opened last year in Kabul by a group of women. (Tolonews)

(7) IEC to Start...

cards - Tazkira - to those who do not already have them.

The IEC said people have until April to apply for their Tazkiras. Statistics show that around 50 percent of Afghan people do not have identity cards.

"The population registration office will roll-out Tazkiras to facilitate the process," said Badghisi.

The institutions overseeing the election process meanwhile said a voters list can help ensure a transparent election.

"I think preparing a voters list is a big step toward holding a transparent election; if the commission registers the voters based on the election law and in a transparent way," Naem Ayubzada, head of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan said. The election staff that will be recruited to register people will use a registration book to enter the identities of all those with Tazkiras.

Once this has been done, the IEC staff member will stamp the back of each Tazkira. On election day, only voters with a stamped Tazkira will be eligible to vote. (Tolo news)

(8) Scrap smuggling...

grinding halt. "We don't have raw metal, there are four iron melting plants in Nangarhar, which are run on these scraps and the smuggling phenomena is wasting investment on these plants," he said.

The Nangarhar chapter of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry office also expressed concern over the smuggling of metal scrap and called it a huge impediment to investment in the country.

The chamber spokesman in Nangarhar, Shakirullah Sapi, told Pajhwok Afghan News and four iron melting and two tiny-plate factories existed in Nangarhar, employing hundreds of people.

He said these factories used metal and tin scraps in manufacturing their products and the factories would be closed if the scrap smuggling to Pakistan continued.

However, he said the smuggling to Pakistan had dropped by 50 percent after he sought help from the main ACCI office in Kabul and the Ministry of Finance.

Owner of Javed Afghan Steel factory, Haji Tor Malang also claimed tons of metal in the name of scrap was daily smuggled to Pakistan.

"On a daily basis, dozens of containers loaded with metal and tin scraps are allowed to cross into Pakistan by Torkham police against hefty bribes. Each container can carry 120 tons of scrap."

He said four iron melting factories were operational in Nangarhar and four new plants were being established but the main concern was the smuggling of metal scrap.

Nangarhar PC deputy head Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani accused border police of paving the ground for metal scrap smuggling to Pakistan.

He said trucks and containers loaded with metal scraps were allowed through the Torkham border gate to enter Pakistan and pick up vehicles carried the scrap from Lalpura district to the neighboring country as well.

The public representative said the scrap was sometimes overtly smuggled and sometimes hidden beneath other goods.

However, first number border police battalion spokesman, Idris Momand, rejected their involvement in the scrap smuggling and they had completely prevented the smuggling.

He said if someone produced evidence against border police officials, those involved in the smuggling would be terminated and put on trial.

Afghanistan Labor Union head Dr. Mohammad Liaqat Adil said control over raw material and enough electricity played a major role in development of local industry.

He said factory workers should also play their role in prevention of scrap smuggling because hundreds of thousands of youth were jobless.

Adil urged industrialists and the government to protect the rights of laborers and pave the ground for continued investments in the country.

Since taking over as the president, Ashraf Ghani has been insisting on promotion of local industry and products and has banned the transfer of raw material outside the country.

About one month ago, a large

metal factory was inaugurated in Kabul amid calls on the Ministry of Defense to effectively control the smuggling of metal scraps. (Pajhwok)

(9) First Uzbek...

implementation of joint development projects and infrastructure projects, including construction of the Mazar-e Sharif - Herat railway and the Surkhon - Puli-Khumri power transmission line, as well as protection of manufacturing enterprises, centers, trading houses in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif cities.

Special attention was paid to ensuring timely implementation of agreements in political, trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres, reached during the official visit of President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to Uzbekistan on December 6-4 2017.

In general, the sides noted the growing dynamics of development of multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. The sides expressed readiness to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation in implementation of joint projects in transit transport, infrastructure, trade and economic, investment, energy and other vital spheres.

At the meeting, the close interrelationship of peace, sustainable development and security issues in ensuring long-term stability in Afghanistan and Central Asia was reaffirmed. In this regard, the importance of supporting Afghanistan through the expansion of regional cooperation and more effective use of political and diplomatic tools of solving the Afghan problem with a view to establishing a zone of peace, cooperation and prosperity in Central Asia was emphasized.

An appropriate protocol was signed as a result of the first meeting of the Joint Security Commission. (Agencies)

(10) Pakistan...

Pakistan and urged government to resolve the issue once and for all.

They said if government cannot resolve these problems, then Pakistan goods should be stopped from entering Afghanistan or from being transported through Afghanistan to other central Asian countries. (Tolo news)

(11) Over 160 Afghan...

investors at Chabahar Port. "The problem of getting visas for Afghan investors to Iran has been solved and efforts are underway to provide further facilities to our investors," said Yahya Akhlaqi, Transit Director at the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. Chabahar is the closest sea port to Afghanistan.

Afghan businessmen meanwhile say that considering problems with the Pakistan transit routes with Afghanistan, Chabahar will eventually become the key port in the region for Afghan goods. (Tolo news)

(12) Mujadidi Accuses...

family. They wanted the authorities to arrest police officer Rao Anwar, blamed for the murder.

Anwar has reputation for killing suspected terrorists and criminals in encounters, Pakistani media reports say. He has been involved in the killing of hundreds of people in what are locally called fake police encounter.

Sibghatullah Mujadid, said: "Islam is the region of equality and justice and I condemned the deprivations of human beings everywhere in the world." The unprecedented protest by the Pakistani Pashtuns entered a 10th day on Friday in Islamabad, despite assurances from the country's prime minister to meet their demands. He said the Pashtuns Long March was against extremism, terrorism and deprivations. Pashtuns were struggling for their legal demands and rights that should be met.

"We fully support the peaceful movement, and we believe

that historical sit-in will help protect the rights of Pashtons in the neighbouring country," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(13) Widowed...

serious heed to their situation. Naseema, another similar woman, said she was searching for a job but had not been able to find one. She told Pajhwok Afghan News the loss of her husband and hungry children coerced her into begging. She had worked at homes of many rich people against a small amount but lost the job soon.

Not only these two women are struggling to survive after being victimized by the conflict but hundreds of others are leading their lives unsheltered and with unknown fate.

Ruqia Achakzai, Kandahar women's affairs director, said the Kandahar women were suffering from poverty, unemployment and other social problems mainly family violence. She said efforts were underway to improve women's lives. "We have solved many legal cases of women during the ongoing year besides imparting vocational training to help them work and earn money."

She informed they had recorded 185 cases of violence against women and most of the cases had been resolved and decided by the department.

She added unfortunately many women were being subjected to domestic violence and 80 percent of such incidents happened in districts. Achakzai said the cases included self-immolation, murders, inheritance denial, fleeing home, underage marriages and others.

She linked the increase in cases of violence against women to the ongoing conflict, low level of education and cultural extremism. She said the Women's Affairs Department was trying to prevent such incidents but take more time and work was needed to discourage the crimes. According to Achakzai, efforts are underway to provide poor women with jobs. Governor Zalmai Wesa said bringing vital changes in women's lives and giving them jobs was his priority.

Kandahar Mayor Eng. Roshan Walasmal also promised to hire women in the municipality under a proper plan.

Women in Kandahar city are satisfied with their situation, but in remote areas and districts they are facing challenges and problems and are deprived basic life facilities. (Pajhwok)

(14) Money changers...

audit money before exchanging them so it should not be part of the black economy.

In a statement, the council said, the council representatives have visited the government officials who promised to meet their demands, and the market was opened at 9am in the morning. (Pajhwok)

(15) 95% Women in...

he said in insecurity districts such as Omna, Gomal, Gayan, Zerok, Khosaman, Wazekhwa and Wrmamai districts over 30 percent men have not obtained their Tazkeras.

He added in most districts offices for Tazkera distribution had been opened while in some place the fatality could not be provided due to the lack of place. Political Affairs Expert Mohammad Hassan Haqyar said Tazkera was prove for nationality and those who don't want to get Tazkera in face deny his/her nationality. He said most daily affairs of the life were connected with Tazkera and if someone refuse to get Tazkera they would be deprived of many basic right.

Haqyar said without Tazkera individuals could not get passport, they could not process their documents and could, go to Hajj or Umra.

It is pertinent to mention that besides Paktiaka, people in the remote areas of the country deprived from obtaining Tazkera. (Pajhwok)