

(1) NATO to ...

of state and government made last year a decision to continue our military presence in Afghanistan..." Stoltenberg, however, insisted on the training mission, hoping it would produce results as currently Afghan forces were in charge of security and it was due to the train and advise mission.

"I, for instance, met with some pilots in the Afghan Air Force and it was great to see them being trained by NATO trainers enabling them to develop their own air force."

He said NATO would discuss the future of Resolute Support mission this spring based on review and assessment, the challenges and the need for forces in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(2) Terrorism is ...

and over 80 others were wounded in an explosion in Lahore city of Pakistan on Monday evening.

According to the Pakistani security officials, the incident took place after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives among the protesters in the city.

The officials further added that several senior police officials were among those killed. The suicide bomber targeted the gathering as a negotiation was underway between the police officials and the protesters who had organized a sit-in to protest against a new bill passed by the government.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Jamaat-ul-Ahrar group claimed responsibility behind the attack. (KP)

(3) EU to Sign ...

transformation" (2014-2024), building on the undertakings given at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October last year.

The agreement reflects the principles and conditions on which the future partnership will be based, read a statement issued by the EU.

"It places an emphasis on regular political dialogue, including on human rights issues, in particular the rights of women and children.

"The agreement provides for the development of a mutually beneficial relationship across an increasingly wide range of economic and political areas such as the rule of law, health, rural development, education, science and technology, as well as actions to combat corruption, money laundering, terrorist financing, organised crime and narcotics.

"It also foresees cooperation on migration, based on the Joint Way Forward on migration issues adopted in early October 2016. The cooperation agreement will also enable the EU and Afghanistan to work together to jointly address global challenges, such as nuclear security, non-proliferation and climate change." (Tolonews)

(4) Pakistan ...

collaboration of Ministry of National Health and Services (NHS) to help Afghanistan in building the infrastructure of health department. According to health ministry official, Pakistan is establishing three hospitals in Kabul, Jalalabad and Nangarhar where people of Afghanistan will get benefit from the facilities. Program of training Afghan health professionals has been launched with the collaboration of NHS, ministry of Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) and SZABMU. Administrator PIMS, Dr Altaf Hussain in a conversation with The Nation said that 90 per cent of constructions work in hospitals in Afghanistan is completed while equipment is being purchased now. He said total 115 medical professionals from Afghanistan will be trained in Pakistan where they will be given proper medical training and services. "PIMS will train 88 persons while, rest of 27 will get training in Hayatabad Medical complex Peshawar," he said. PIMS administrator stated that these medical professionals will be given training in the department of nephrology, urology, radiology, neurology and

pathology. Later, a one year master trainers program will be also launched which will provide training to medical professionals in Afghanistan, said Dr Altaf. These medical professionals will be given training in three steps which will include theory learning, observation of work and finally the work under the supervision of medical trainer. (PR)

(5) US Committed ...

about the latest furor in Washington was evident early on as officials crowded around televisions at the NATO meeting to watch Mattis' initial appearance with Stoltenberg. Ministers immediately clustered around the retired Marine general as he entered the meeting room.

In public statements, however, NATO leaders brushed aside questions about the turmoil in Washington. (AP)

(6) MoFA Seeks...

Karcahi a week earlier. According to the statement, Naseer Ahmad Andesha, administration and resources director of the foreign ministry met Pakistani Ambassador Syed Ibrar Hussain in Kabul and discussed the unpleasant incident with him.

Andesha told the Pakistani ambassador that a delegation from the foreign ministry had been dispatched to the neighbouring country to investigate the killing of diplomat.

During the meeting Andesha sought cooperation from Pakistani authorities to investigate the killing of diplomat.

The main reasons behind the killing of diplomat would be made disclosed upon the return of investigation team from Pakistan, MoFA statement said. (Pajhwok)

(7) NATO Ministerial

campaign that he would decide whether to come to allies' aid only after reviewing if those nations had "fulfilled their obligations to us". (Xinhua)

(8) Abdullah...

centralization of power in the government.

He added that most countries cannot approach consensus and fail to develop the reforms' implementation. (AKIPRESS)

(9) Taliban, ...

rebels in Shinwari. He alleges the Taliban beat his cousin Hamza when he tried to migrate from Gahwara village to Qeshlan.

Bibi Ayesha, 60, claims her son Zmarai was killed by the insurgents three years back. She had to migrate with her widow daughter-in-law and five grandchildren from Kahan Da village to the Tatamdara area of Charikar.

Paying 1,500 afs in house rent, she says: "The Taliban told my son to take up arms and fight against the government. When he refused, he was killed by the militants."

Col. Alozai Ahmadi, coordinating officer of security forces, says the fighters have killed around 20 relatives of security personnel in Shinwari, Koh-i-Safi and Siah Gird districts of Parwan.

In addition, 77 families and relatives of security forces had to migrate from their places to Kabul, Charikar and Siah Gird district centre.

Governor Mohammad Asem Asem charges harassing families and relatives of security forces has been Taliban's policy -- a problem experienced across the province.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejects the allegation as groundless. "It is the enemy's propaganda. I vehemently reject this.

"I also want to say if any police or local security official has been killed, it is due to the crimes they committed and their relatives have never been harassed."

Mujahid denied the Taliban forced relatives of security forces to leave their homes. Some outfits calling themselves local uprising groups have to migrate when Taliban capture their areas.

"We never intimidate innocent people. If anyone is threatened by other individuals posing as Taliban, we would punish them," Mujahid warns.

He argues those fighting against the Taliban are not innocent and their families are not partners in their crime. There is no reason for suppressing the relatives of uprising members, he continues.

"If we find who threatened people from the address of Mujahidin the Taliban would punish that person and we always conducted investigation in this regard," Mujahid added.

He, however, blasts government forces for threatening innocent civilians and bombarding families and individuals who never cooperate with the Taliban.

In a telephone contact with Pajhwok, Mirza Gul from Qamchaq locality whines: "I was arrested several times by ALP in Siah Gird district bazaar. They ask me why my son 'Mohammad Hafiz' joined the Taliban, my son is living separately and does not listen to my advice."

He adds: "Other security forces also arrest and harass me. I cannot go to the bazaar or hospital for treatment, even though I am a civilian giving no connection with any group."

Gul reveals his son Syed Mohammad was also nabbed by ALP for his brother's connection with the Taliban. "ALP released my son in exchange for 10,000 afghanis but his motorcycle is yet to be returned," he grumbles.

The ALP personnel allegedly torched the shop of Qand Agha in the Siah Gird bazaar on the charge of his brother-in-law of Mohammad Hafiz, he continues.

Around 20 families, whose relatives are Taliban members, have left their houses due to harassment and torture by ALP personnel in Qamchaq area, he asserts. This brutality has obliged people to swell Taliban ranks and seek revenge.

Ghulam Mohammad, a 65 years old man from the Wazghar area of Siah Gird, lives in a Taliban-controlled area. "Four years ago, I was arrested by security forces and sentenced to five months in jail," he says.

"I was returning from a wedding party in Kabul when security forces detained me in Charikar on the charge of supporting the Taliban. Although they had no evidence, they jailed me," he alleges.

Mohammad charges one of his cousins, having no links with any militant groups, was recently killed in an Afghan Air Force airstrike.

A large number of people living in areas under Taliban's control are arrested and tortured by Afghan forces, he maintains.

Col. Ahmadi, coordinating commander for Afghan forces in Parwan, spurns the claims and says security forces never bother civilians and they conduct operations carefully to prevent civilian casualties.

If anyone is arrested, he should approach the relevant organs to have his problems addressed, he says, explaining they have not yet received any complaints in this regard.

Parwan Ulema Council head Maulvi Abdur Rahim Shah Agha says Islam does not allow warring sides to harm innocent people even if they are non-Muslims. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan ...

was urged to take urgent measures to eliminate the terrorists and their sanctuaries, financiers and handlers operating from its territory."

It also added "An Aide-Memoire containing details of the terrorist attacks and supporting information was also shared with the Afghan Deputy Head of Mission."

According to the Pakistani security officials, the incident took place after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives among the protesters in the city.

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(11) MoI Asked...

for Dostum's bodyguards about a month ago, but no action has since been taken.

The Presidential Palace had also said the MoI was responsible to detain the bodyguards of the first VP.

Eshchi, a former Jawzjan governor, was rescued by intelligence agents on December 10 after 16 days of captivity. His sons had claimed Gen. Dostum had a verbal clash with their father. Later on, Dostum's bodyguards allegedly kidnapped him, tortured, beaten up and sexually harassed him during his captivity. (Pajhwok)

(12) UAE Envoy ...

precarious as US-backed forces struggle to combat a resilient Taliban insurgency as well as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State group jihadists.

Provincial police chief Abdul Raziq blamed the Kandahar bombing on the Haqqani network, a group separate from but allied with the Taliban. (AFP)

(13) Belarus ...

renovation works are scheduled to be completed by summer. "I am confident that the city authorities together with the public and veteran organizations will continue working hard to perpetuate the memory of the fallen soldiers," Vasily Panasyuk said. Participants of the commemorative event observed a minute of silence in memory of those killed in Afghanistan. Representatives of ministries, government agencies, organizations and veterans laid wreaths and flowers at the memorial. (BelTA)

(14) Fire Sweeps ...

by the firefighters. This comes as at least four people were killed in a similar incident in Kabul's Pul-e-Charkhi prison nearly eight years ago.

The majority of fire incidents during the winter period takes place due to recklessness while handling heating materials, including gas balloons and lack of inspection of the electricity wires.

According to Qaderi, the incident in Mazar prison took place after after the electricity lines caught fire. (KP)

(15) Ex-Soviet ...

He said that his family in Russia have visited him on a number of occasions in Herat and asked him to return but he said his home is Afghanistan and he has no regrets about living here or about converting to Islam.

"Contact with my family was cut and I have no way of contacting them. But I don't regret staying here," Khakimov said.

Khakimov works for a Jihad memorial museum in Herat and is well-respected. "He is a good man and has strong morals," Khakimov's mother-in-law said.

Khakimov said that after he converted he studied Islam by reading Islamic books and now most of his relatives call him Sheikh Abdullah - which is out of respect.

Jamil Khakimov's wife also says he is a kind and generous man.

"He is a good man and lives a good life," said Jamil.

Twenty eight years ago the Soviet Army withdrew from Afghanistan but a number of former Soviet soldiers stayed behind.

Currently at least four former soldiers are known to still be in Herat province. (Tolonews)

(16) Farah Residents...

We have no courts or attorneys. Taliban [militants] are killing the people every day," another resident Ehsanullah said.

The Head of civil society networks in Farah, Baryalai Ghafari, added his voice to concerns about poor governance and lack of judicial resources in the province.

"The district authorities of Farah province only issue national identity cards. Schools are not active; there are no judges or legal representatives in the province. The capital, Farah city, is faced with a severe crisis of government," Ghafari stated.

The provincial governor's

spokesman, Mohammad Nasir Mehri, confirmed the report and said insecurity and lack of buildings for judicial institutions have adversely affected legal process in the province. "No attorneys or judges are active in Farah districts because of the lack of security. We will continue our efforts to resume legal services once security of the areas is ensured," Mehri said.

"Other problem is that in some districts, there is no building for judges, courts or attorneys," he added. (Tolonews)

(17) 9 Drug ...

cultivated in militancy-hit Afghanistan, particularly in western and southern parts of the country, where government security forces have little presence. (Xinhua)

(18) School Girl ...

as police captured some family members of the dead girl with suspected individuals after the overnight incident.

One week earlier, police recovered the body of a girl in the area, but Ahmadi said the two incidents had no links.

Ismail Zaki, head of the civil society organisations, said the growing incidents of murder and kidnapping was alarming as 10 target killing and dozens incidents of robbery and kidnapping took place in Bamyan in the past one month. (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 Afghans...

Afghans -- Chana Din, son of Noor Din, and Abdul Kabir, son of Qurab Din. The excavator was also recovered from them. (Pajhwok)

(20) Paramilitary...

area. "Security agencies had intelligence about intrusion of suicide bombers from Afghanistan inside Mohmand Agency," a statement from the army's media wing said.

A search operation is being carried out in the area. The injured were evacuated to hospital. "Three of the injured are in critical condition," said Dr Shad Muhammad.

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of the proscribed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement emailed to journalists, the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Awash with weapons and infested with homegrown and foreign militants, Mohmand is one of Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal districts near the Afghan border. (Pajhwok)

(21) Large Cache...

bullets were seized by the security forces.

According to Mashriqwal, the operation was conducted by the Counter-terrorism Unit of Nangarhar police commandment.

The militants were looking to transfer the ammunition and explosives to Jalalabad city for a series of terrorist attacks, Mashriqwal added.

He said no suspect has been arrested in connection to the discovery of the cache but an operation is underway to arrest the militants who were keeping the explosives and were planning attacks in the city.

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

(22) Inflation in...

England's 2.0 percent target for inflation looks likely to be breached in the months ahead.

"Further upward pressure on prices looks inevitable in coming months as energy costs continue to climb and firms pass rising costs on to customers, pushing inflation up towards 3.0 percent in the second half of the year," added Williamson.

Rain Newton-Smith, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), said: "Inflation has continued to creep higher, and we expect it to rise even further over the year ahead. Companies are already feeling the impact of the lower pound, with input price

inflation now well into double-digits. (Xinhua)

(23) UN Chief ...

United States, the two Security Council permanent members.

In the statement, Guterres also announced the establishment of an internal review team to go through the UN peace and security strategy, functioning and architecture. (Xinhua)

(24) European ...

on. Together we can build bridges, instead of a wall, for the prosperity of our citizens. CETA will be a lighthouse for future trade deals all over the world," said Pabriks.

European Union suppliers of services from sea shipping through telecoms and engineering will have access to the Canadian market. CETA also provides a framework for allowing professional qualifications to be recognized, so that legal, accounting, architectural and other services can be supplied across markets.

In 2015, about 28.3 billion euros worth of Canadian goods were imported into Europe, while the EU exported goods worth 35.2 billion euros, all of which is expected to increase by more than 20 percent when the deal is fully implemented, according to the EU. (Xinhua)

(25) 9,000 Soldiers...

in their barracks in protest against the freezing of their salaries and against their labor conditions. In a statement, Temer said the armed forces are "ready to re-establish public order" in case of more strikes and described the situation in Espirito Santo as an "insurgency" by military police. (Xinhua)

(26) China, Russia...

pipeline project and the Yamal liquefied natural gas (LNG) project.

Recent years have witnessed continuous achievements in energy cooperation including in natural gas field between China and Russia under the strategic guidance of the two countries' top leaders, said Zhang.

For his part, Miller said Russia viewed China as an important energy cooperation partner.

Russia is willing to work with China on the current projects and explore new areas of cooperation so as to jointly lift the energy cooperation partnership to a new high, he said. (Xinhua)

(27) Syrian Opposition.

for the talks, which are due to begin on Feb. 23 following preliminary meetings beginning on Feb. 20. (Reuters)

(28) China Moves ...

more value-added production. In May 2015, China introduced the "Made in China 2025" blueprint, listing several tasks for the manufacturing industry, including boosting innovation, fostering Chinese brands and service-oriented manufacturing. (Xinhua)

(29) Iran President...

public appearance since he returned from medical checks in Germany in April last year.

The agency said the two sides discussed ways for enhancing bilateral cooperation but gave no further details. Oman helped to mediate secret U.S.-Iran talks in 2013 that led to the historic nuclear deal signed in Geneva two years later. (Reuters)

(30) ADB President ...

Since Uzbekistan joined ADB in 1995, the country has received over \$5 billion in loans and nearly \$62 million in technical assistance grants.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. (Trend)

(31) Putin,...

which co-authored the resolution, has a high regard for Turkmenistan's policy of neutrality.

The day before, Mr Putin sent a message of greetings to Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. (AKI)