

(1) FATF Defers...

through a diplomatic approach to avert being added to the list, won a last-minute reprieve at the meeting, where senior Pakistani officials pleaded their case. There was no consensus on nominating Pakistan. Khawaja Asif said, thanking "friends who helped in the process". The meeting proposed a "three months pause" and asked for the Asia Pacific Group to consider another report in June. (Pajhwok)

(2) Japan Contributes...

the future elections transparently and we will not allow any type of electoral fraud," said Abdul Badi Sayyad, the head of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC). "The commission will fully keep its independence." (ATN)

(3) HRW Urges...

Human Rights Watch, during the operation, Afghan security forces opened fire on men as they attempted to flee, killing about 50 Taliban militants and at least 20 civilians.

Last August, US President Donald Trump announced a new Afghanistan strategy, in which he pledged to continue US support for the Afghan government and military. Trump also said the mandate of US troops to target terrorists in Afghanistan would be expanded and approved sending an additional 4,000 troops to the country.

Afghanistan has been suffering for decades from activities of terrorist groups on its soil, including Taliban and Daesh. (Sputnik)

(4) Germany Departs...

back to their homeland aboard a German plane. Although the original list contained 58 individuals, only 14 ultimately flew back. Among them, according to information released by the Interior Ministry on its website, there were six people who had been deemed criminals, three identity thieves, and one dangerous individual. The Bavarian interior minister, Joachim Hermann, said that "dangerous people, criminals, and identity thieves represent clear security problems in our country." Moreover, authorities are hoping that the deportations send "a signal that the rule of law is being applied."

In 2017, Bavaria carried out the deportation of 3,282 people. In particular, of the 121 Afghans that have been deported in Germany, 56 were from Bavaria. Tuesday night, in the midst of snow and frigid temperatures, some 200 people gathered in Munich's Marienplatz square to protest the deportation policy, in a rally organized by the Bavarian Refugee Council. The group actively supports "a policy of integration and not deportations," according to their mission statement.

Many people in Germany oppose the deportations because of the current human rights and security situation of Afghanistan, which they say is still too dangerous. A recent UN report puts the figure of civilians killed in 2017 at 10,000.

The Taliban and the "Islamic State" groups are still active and carry out terrorist attacks. In Kabul alone, 20 attacks were carried out in 2017.

Still, the government insists that only people with criminal backgrounds are being deported and that in the end, their main responsibility is to protect their citizens from danger. (DW)

(5) Afghan Authorities...

outskirts of provincial capital Qalat city after destruction of the drugs.

"Some 77 people were also arrested on suspicion of

transportation of destroyed drugs and narcotics over the past year in Zabul."

Much of the world's opium poppy is cultivated in Afghanistan, a country still notorious for growing opium-producing poppies for the illicit drug trade.

In 2017, some 9,000 tons of opium were produced in Afghanistan, particularly in western and southern parts of the country, where the government security forces have little presence, according to official figures. (Xinhua)

(6) Afghan Exporters...

exhibitors from the food, drink, food services, and hospitality industries. Last year's exhibition saw more than 97,000 visitors during the five-day event.

USAID-supported exporters have secured tens of millions of dollars in deals since Afghan participation began in 2011. Last year, Afghan traders signed 7.1\$ million in contracts for 1.5 million kilograms of agricultural goods.

Agriculture is the backbone of Afghanistan's economy. Up to 80 percent of Afghans are dependent on farming and livestock, and agriculture contributes 25 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

The Afghanistan Pavilion is located in Hall No. 9, Stands G1-9 and H1-9 of the Dubai World Trade Center. Afghan Minister of Agriculture H.E. Nasir Ahmad Durrani and Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industries Ms. Kamila Siddiqui inaugurated the Afghanistan Pavilion. (PR)

(7) Work on 60m...

project was repairing buildings of ten schools at cost of six million afs. which would be provided by the US forces.

Munib further said that the provincial administration kept in mind uniform development across the province and public satisfaction while implementing projects.

Abdu Jabbar, a resident, said Dand was a populated district where a lot of work in education, healthcare and agriculture sectors was direly needed.

Work on a retaining wall, a 21 million afs project, in the same district has been underway. The project is funded by the Rural Rehabilitation Ministry. (Pajhwok)

(8) Ghani Warns...

decision over the last two months.

Noor had angrily criticized the government and he would not leave office until his demands for 'reforms' in the government are accepted.

Talking to the conference in Kabul, Ghani said: "The message of all of you is law enforcement. We can make our future by accepting and implementing law which is the only way to rescue this country."

Pointing to the importance of peace, the Afghan leader said some problems existed in the process and needed solution.

"Maintaining peace is difficult until the issue of refugees and internally displaced families continues, we must have the will for law enforcement and ensuring peace," the president said.

Calling women's role in the peace process as crucial, Ghani said: "The Afghan women can represent themselves, their thoughts come from inside the society and can very well exemplify the future of this country."

About preparations for holding the second summit of the Kabul Process, the president said: "The second Kabul Process conference would be organized in one week and the aim is to build a regional

and international consensus for peace and present peace suggestions to the Taliban and the world."

In the conference, the Taliban would be given a choice to prove themselves that they had the will for peace, he said.

Mohammad Karim Khalili, the High Peace Council (HPC) chief, said elders held an important position in the history of Afghanistan and they could better raise voice of peace in their villages, districts and provinces. At the end of the meeting, the participants in a resolution letter stressed on comprehensive support to the peace process and called the ongoing conflict an intelligence war that secured foreign interests only. They asked the Taliban to support intra-Afghan peace process.

The participants urged the government to let local elders play their role in accelerating peace efforts in the country. They also asked the international community to support the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(9) DAB Employees...

According to him, after completing their training courses, the employees would be able to figure out where and how money-laundering was taking place.

The total cost of the project would be 4\$ million being spent from a three-year-old 45.7\$ million World Bank grant.

The WB official told in the conference that assisting Afghanistan's financial sector was the bank's top priority.

Abdullohaye said improving financial sector's capacity could play a crucial in economic growth of a country.

At the end, he also mentioned upcoming aids of the World Bank with Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan to...

emphasised the international community should fulfill its obligations towards shouldering this responsibility to ensure the smooth repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees," said a spokesman for Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. In line with the second extension in the stay of Afghans in Pakistan, the refugees will be repatriated after March 31. The government promised all possible facilitation for the voluntary repatriation drive. (Pajhwok)

(11) Australia Slaps...

"Australia has also renewed its terror listing for IS in Sinai province, which has attacked civilian Muslim and Coptic Christian targets as well as Egyptian security forces." (Pajhwok)

(12) ALP Forces Buy...

backed militia forces. "We have many times demanded advanced and heavy weapons from the authorities, but no one paid heed."

According to Mohammad, there are ALP members who sold their motorbikes and bought weapons in order to resist militant attacks. He complained: "If we leave our jobs, the Taliban would chase and kill us, if we fight, we lack weapons."

On the other hand, ALP members in Gilan district say also face the same problems.

Lal Mohammad told Pajhwok that militants possessed more advanced weapons. "Look here, a few days back, I was injured and many of our colleagues were killed and wounded after the Taliban attacked us firing 82mm artillery."

Meanwhile, Abdul Mateen, ALP commander in Muqr district, said they faced several problems during clashes with militants due the lack of advanced weapons. He said: "Whenever a latest weapon is released, it comes to insurgents and they use it

against us."

In response to these complaints, Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Zaman said legally ALP personnel could not be given advanced weaponry rockets.

"I am currently in a security meeting in Gardez, I will share the problems of local police in the meeting to find solution," he added.

In response to a question, he said ALP should not have heavy weapons because their main duty was law enforcement.

Mohammad Arif Noori, the governor's spokesman, said the issue had been shared with the central government and it had been promised to reduce ALP problems at the earliest possible. (Pajhwok)

(13) Nighttime Suspension...

Bismillah Khurram, a member on the Afghanistan Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Board, verified the nighttime suspension was forced by insurgents in insecure areas. He promised the companies would operate round the clock if the security threats were countered. (Pajhwok)

(14) 57 Islamic Nations...

bilateral talks with representatives from a number of Islamic nations, especially Saudi Arabia, in order to discuss opportunities to send Afghan workers to these countries.

"We want closer cooperation between the countries that send a workforce and those that receives them. Especially our country that so far has not signed any official contract with any Muslim country to send them workers," said Zaki.

This comes as a number of Islamic nations, including Afghanistan; struggle to deal with rising unemployment rates; while other Islamic nations including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Turkey have a labor shortage.

For many years, Afghanistan has struggled to establish labor relations with some Arab countries. However, it is hoped that after this week's summit, agreements can be reached.

"For the last 10 years government is working on this issue and so far we did not witness any results. But this time we are hopeful that the labor ministry convinces them (other countries) to put into practice these efforts," economic expert Abdul Wasee Haidari said.

In a recent report, the World Bank encouraged Afghanistan to reach such agreements with countries, especially Gulf nations.

The WB stated this would help decrease the high level of unemployment in the country and help boost the local economy. According to the report, currently Turkey and Kuwait are the most suitable countries for Afghanistan to send workers to. (Tolo news)

(15) 'Pakistan, Russia...

JiaXiudong said that Pakistan was now a full member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), hence both Russia and Pakistan could use this new channel to step up their dialogue concerning Afghanistan and try to bring Taliban back on the negotiating table.

On Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asi's official visit to the Russian Federation and his bilateral consultations with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, he said, "Russia and Pakistan have warmed up relations for several years but certainly the latest US move concerning Pakistan has driven Pakistan and Russian relations even closer."

He said that both the countries had not only agreed to enhance

their political consultations but also increase their cooperation in economic, trade and investment areas.

"Both countries have agreed to build a pipeline to deliver natural gas and more fuel and energy to Pakistan and they have also geared up their defense cooperation," he added.

To yet another question, he remarked that Pakistan and China enjoyed all-weather friendship and relations regardless of Pakistan's relations with other countries, adding "China welcomes friendship between Pakistan and Russia." (APP)

(16) Kabul Teenagers...

Education and Sport.

At least 103 athletes from 33 clubs in Kabul will compete in 10 weight categories.

The World Junior Taekwondo Championships will be held in Tunisia in April and the Youth Olympics will be in Argentina in October.

"The aim of the competition is to select athletes for the (junior) national team and they will be introduced to the national team in the near future," said Khwaja Heshmatullah Rasa, acting head of the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sport for Afghanistan.

"We are happy about this competition. It will boost our skills and new talent will be found in Kabul. It will strengthen taekwondo," Faizullah, an athlete, said. (Tolo news)

(17) Mass Grave...

ministry of education staff from the same district.

Some tribal elders in Nangarhar have also accused government of failing to do anything about rescuing these hostages.

But local officials rejected the claims and said security forces had tried to free them on a number of occasions. (Tolo news)

Taliban's Military Commission Members Killed in Farah Roadside Explosion

FARAH - At least four Taliban insurgents all belonging to the group's military commission for western Farah province were killed in a roadside bomb explosion.

According to the local officials, the incident took place in the vicinity of Anar Dara district after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted on a roadside went off targeting the vehicle of the militants.

The provincial police commandment confirmed that a vehicle of the militants struck a roadside mine in Zahkan village. The source further adds that a commander of the Taliban group identified as Gul Aqa were among those killed.

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

The Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the insurgent groups often use improvised explosive devices as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces but in majority of such incidents the ordinary civilians are killed besides such tactic claims the lives of the insurgents as well.

A total of 10,453 civilian casualties - 3,438 people killed and 7,015 injured - were documented in the 2017 Annual Report released last week by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the UN Human Rights Office.

The report further added that the high number of casualties to the civilians were inflicted by suicide bombings and other attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). (KP)