

### (1) Ghani Holds...

meeting was attended by 2nd vice president, Mohammad Sarwar Danish, CEO Abdullah Abdullah, Jihadi leader Sibghatullah Mujadidi, National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atman, Mishrano Jirga chairman, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, the High Peace Council deputy head Mohammad Karim Khalili, deputy CEO Eng. Mohammad Khan, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and some other officials. (Pajhwok)

### (2) NATO Asks...

Security Agreement (BSA) Gen. Cleveland said that US embassy in Kabul was authorised to answer this question as the diplomatic mission handled the agreement. The NATO-US spokesman also refused to provide information about escalation on the Durand line and referred to the government of Afghanistan for details. "Overall, our very strong recommendation to all involved is to do all possible to de-escalate the tensions. Terrorism is a regional problem and requires a regional solution." US-NATO spokesman said, all must work together towards the common cause of defeating these terrorists. "Regarding our role, we continue to conduct our train, advise, and assist mission with our Afghan partners so that the ANDSF can defend themselves and also address any threats from terrorist organizations that reside in the region." Gen. Charlie added. There are no plans at all for Resolute Support to re-start a combat mission. Resolute Support will continue its train, advise, and assist mission, and the US will also continue to conduct a counter-terrorist mission against ISIS and Al Qaeda, he said. "We do intend to thicken the advisory effort by adding to our Expeditionary Advisory Packages. And, we will continue to send them out for temporary missions to train, advise, and assist at lower levels as we done previously in Farah, Lashkar Gah, and other locations as needed."

In response to the ongoing battle against terrorism in Afghanistan he said, It was also incredibly important to highlight how successful the ANDSF and the US have been against ISIS. He said, this time last year, there were over 2,000 ISIS members in southern Nangarhar spread out over eleven districts. Today, one year later, there are approximately only 700 ISIS remaining in southern Nangarhar, confined to less than three districts.

According to him, the 201st Corps is conducting very successful operations right now against ISIS in Deh Bala and Kot. In addition, Afghan and US counter terrorism operations have killed the top 12 ISIS leaders and the ISIS terrorist responsible for the attack on last July's peaceful protest in Kabul. "We also killed the TGG leader who was responsible for the horrific attack against the school in Peshawar at the end of 2014." He said In response to a question regarding corruption among Afghan security forces Gen. Charlie said as President Ghani and other senior leaders have highlighted, corruption is a problem for Afghanistan and must be addressed by all people at all levels. He added, If weapons and ammunition are being sold, then those involved are criminals and will be caught and prosecuted by the government.

The Anti-Corruption Justice Center was now prosecuting cases and working hard to punish those involved and responsible for corruption. He added. (Pajhwok)

### (3) NSC Insists ...

peaceful zones. The relevant authorities were instructed to step up efforts for the implementation of the agreement provision. The peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami was signed late in the month of September last year.

The United Nations Security Council further paved the way for the proper implementation of the peace agreement provisions by remove Gulbudin Hekmatyar's name from the sanctions list few weeks ago. (KP)

### (4) Pakistan Regards ..

Pakistan was desirous of having friendly relations with India but India should also extend cooperation in this regard. Referring to the ongoing atrocities in Indian occupied Kashmir being perpetrated by Indian security forces, the president said the sacrifices rendered by the new generation had given fresh impetus to freedom struggle. He underlined that Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the resolutions of United Nations. He said Pakistan was keen to include all its neighbouring countries in the path to progress and development.

President Mamnoon Hussain emphasized that complete elimination of terrorism was must to ensure sustained national progress adding that the new wave of terrorism would be crushed. He said the future of tribal areas should be decided as per aspirations of the tribal people and hoped that the matter would be resolved soon.

He said national progress can be ensured by making the corrupt elements accountable and stressed upon the need to ensure strict implementation of anti-corruption laws to eradicate the menace of corruption. The president noted with appreciation that not a single incident of corruption had occurred during the last three years.

He said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was a monument of this century which would change the fate of the region.

He said Pakistan's progress and stability was linked with continuation of democratic dispensation noting that deviation from the democratic system always damaged the country.

He said problems of the country could be resolved by running the national affairs in the light of the Constitution. The President said focus should also be paid on moral training of the youth along-with education to attain national progress.

He urged the new generation to promote national culture and identity. He noted that the quality of good leadership was to serve the nation with dedication and honesty.

He said the country's leadership should be a role model for the new generation.

The president expressed optimism that not only international cricket would be revived in Pakistan but also international events of other sports would be staged in the country.

He said Cadet College Hasanabdal was playing an important role in imparting quality education and training to the determined youth for the defense and service of motherland.

He hoped that the college would continue to impart quality education in line with modern requirements. (APP)

### (5) US Vows to ...

and to use those ties to persuade Islamabad to change its policies towards Afghanistan, US lawmakers and a top American general indicated at the latest Congressional hearing on the situation in Afghanistan, earlier this month. (Monitoring Desk)

### (6) Afghanistan, ...

commercial problems in line with the honorable reputation the country economically has gained among the international organizations.

Optimism of the stability of the Afghan economy comes amid fresh border restrictions by Pakistan on its borders with Afghanistan.

On Thursday, Pakistan announced extra security measures and border restrictions on the border between the two countries following Saturday's deadly blast at a Sufi shrine in Pakistan's Sindh province.

Islamabad claimed that the move was imperative to control the infiltration of terrorists infiltrating into Pakistani from Afghanistan.

Pakistan's sudden move of introducing border restrictions has led to uncertainties within the business communities in the two countries.

The ACCI says that Pakistan's new border restrictions will hinder Islamabad's access to Afghan and central Asian markets. The unwarranted move will also inflict devastating repercussions on the economic development and commercial relations of Pakistan with other states.

The volume of the trade balance between Afghanistan and Pakistan is estimated to be \$1.5 billion. Of that, the share of Afghanistan's exports to Pakistan is estimated at 15 percent while 85 percent of the share is made up of Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan.

The trade volume between Pakistan and central Asian countries is around \$4 billion, the ACCI said.

The ACCI said that Pakistan also collects large amounts of money through smuggling from the Afghan and central Asian routes. (Tolonews)

### (7) Japan Pledges ...

City Resilience Action Plan. City resilience will be enhanced through the analysis of city risk and resilience, disaster risk reduction campaigns and improvement of critical infrastructures, such as improving canal/river bank, drainage system, and vulnerable bridges and shelters, the statement added. According to the statement, the project also directly benefits about 54,000 people in target communities by implementing Community Resilience Action Plan which will strengthen the capacity of targeted urban communities, to prevent and reduce risk, and to prepare for disaster. Communities will enhance its resilience through community-led activities, such as disaster drills, making schools/clinics resilient to earthquake and reinforcing vulnerable housings. (KP)

### (8) Afghanistan ...

ratified immediately upon joining the trade body in July 2016.

A central component of the Trade for Economic Growth and Regional Cooperation a trade-related support programme to Afghanistan funded by the European Union and implemented by ITC in support of MOCI, the National

Export Strategy would align with the priorities and development goals established by the Afghan government. It would have a particular focus on socio-economic growth, private-sector development, investment promotion, investor protection, and economic diversification.

The final Strategy will also adhere with the principles and instruments of the New Development Planning System that has been established by the Afghan Government as part of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF).

Afghanistan's Minister for Commerce and Industry Humyoon Rasaw said: "The first NES consultation will capture a comprehensive picture of the current business environment in Afghanistan. This will assist in the development of an effective export strategy, ultimately allowing Afghanistan to expand export earnings, enhance trade competitiveness and to achieve greater economic diversification."

ITC Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez said: "Entry into the WTO will make predictable and open trade possible for Afghanistan. The National Export Strategy is a good next step in making trade happen. The Strategy will provide a guiding compass for a series of strategic actions including investments, value-chain development, institutional support mechanisms, and improvement of Afghanistan's regulatory environment."

Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Ambassador of the European Union to Afghanistan, said: "Moving forward the private sector development agenda must be a priority for Afghanistan if it wants to shift from aid dependency towards sustainable growth and job creation. The National Export Strategy would guide Afghanistan's efforts to realize the potential of its exports sector as an important driver for economic growth. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Herat Mines'...

we have not been allowed to export unprocessed marble. A number of companies are trying to buy processing machines for the marble stone in order to export the treated stone," he added.

Meanwhile, the provincial governor spokesman Jalilani Farhad said: "There are facilities and capacity and Herat is the suitable place for mines extraction. We hope that the Mines and Petroleum Ministry use these capacities." (Tolonews)

### (10) All Schools...

and all schools will be opened in Yamgan for students to continue their lessons," Tariq added.

Meanwhile the residents have said that more than 12,000 students are being deprived of education due to the closure of schools in Warduj district alone.

"In the past seventeen months, our children have been unable to receive an education. Most of them have joined Taliban ranks and some of them have fled to Pakistan or Iran," said Abdul Rahman resident of Warduj district.

"We are facing cultural poverty in Warduj district. The government must clear Warduj of insurgents or reopen education," said Saiful Rahman another resident. Meanwhile Badakhshan police have said that during the coming summer, Warduj district will be cleared of local and foreign insurgents.

"We accept that the closure of schools is causing great harm to our students, but we are committed to clearing Warduj of insurgents during the coming summer," said Mohammad Nabi Bayan Badakhshan acting police chief. Badakhshan education department statistics show that in past two years nearly 20,000 students are deprived of education in both Warduj and Yamgan districts. (Tolonews)

"The duty system wasn't proper, as patients were asked for money and even referred to doctors' private clinics around the hospital for needless X-rays and CT-scans. Patients are prescribed overdose.

"After I assumed charge, I started taking corrective measures. But, unfortunately, the individuals whose benefits were threatened began hatching conspiracies against me and made the clip. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Daesh Recruiting...

I locality, verified the Islamic State recruitment process was underway in the district and a large number of youth had joined the outfit.

"Daesh has also persuaded my 22-year-old son who joined their ranks and is being trained in Achin. I strived to bring him back but failed," he added.

Bismillah, another resident of the area, said they were facing multiple issue due to Daesh activities. He warned: "If this process continues, it will create problems for us."

Col. Mohammad Jan Abid, the provincial crime branch chief, said, they were aware of Daesh activities in Azra district. He, however, rejected a Daesh presence in the district and said the group was only involved in recruiting youth. Asked for comments on the issue, the governor's spokesman said he was unaware of Daesh activities in Azra district, situated 90 kilometres east of Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital. The main road to the district has been closed for the past 14 years and its residents Kabul and Nangarhar routes for travel. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Daudzai Warns ...

"Don't let the Pakistanis to intervene on our soil. If we don't have the capacity to stop them, we have some international options and will use them," added Daudzai. Participants also urged the Afghans across the nation to unify and never surrender to conspiracies.

"The 3rd Hoot marks the voice of Allah-e-Akbar against invasion and oppression," said former minister of information and culture Sayed Makhdoom Raheen. "During that period there was no division between the Hindus, but now they are trying to divide us under the name of Shia, Sunni, Tajik and Pashtoon," said member of Kabul provincial council Naqibullah Hashimi. Participants at the gathering also hailed the sacrifices of the Afghan security forces in their defense of the country. They asked the government to reach out in support of families of fallen and wounded soldiers. (Tolonews)

### (13) Kabul Denounces ...

again stressed the need for practical steps and collaboration among regional countries for effectively combating terrorist groups. Multiple suicide attackers struck at the sessions court in the Tangi tehsil of Charsadda district Tuesday morning, a senior police officer told Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone. The outlawed militant outfit Jamaat-ul-Ahraar (JuA) claimed responsibility for the bombings. Body parts of the bombers and their explosives lay scattered on the road. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Corruption at its ...

but problems could not be resolved and people continued complaining of corruption and poor services.

Different sources say Dr. Faqir Mohammad Faqiri served as RMH director for seven years. He claims he had to resign due to growing corruption at the hospital. The public health minister appointed Dr. Kamran Bashari as acting head of RMH after the resignation of Faqiri. Bashari remained head of RMH until June, 2016. After his resignation, Dr. Syed Jan Hassan was appointed to the slot in compliance with an appointment letter No. 143201.

A formal letter from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said following complaints from the local residents, Dr. Bashari had been replaced by Dr. Syed Jan Hassan to provide locals with health services in a more efficient manner.

But Dr. Bashari said via a fresh letter issued last month he was re-appointed as head of RMH. Some residents, through a formal letter, asked MoPH to reverse the appointment of Dr. Bashari, who was earlier involved in immoral and illegal activities.

Malik Abdul Ahmad, a resident of locality who signed the above letter, charged midwives at RMH took 1,000 to 1,500 afghanis from each pregnant woman.

Noor Hassan, another resident of the area, also criticised the appointment of Bashari. "We complained against his appointment for the second time because in the past he wanted to enter the labour room and observe childbirth. We won't tolerate this again."

Without providing proofs in support of their claims, both inhabitants said Haji Rahmatullah, a local representative who worked at RMH as a pharmacist, had shared the outrageous details with them.

Denial of the allegations Both Bashari and Farida reject the clip as bogus. Bashari told Pajhwok: "When MoPH tasked me with bringing about reforms, there was a generally careless behavior at the hospital. No one was particular about attendance."

"The duty system wasn't proper, as patients were asked for money and even referred to doctors' private clinics around the hospital for needless X-rays and CT-scans. Patients are prescribed overdose.

"After I assumed charge, I started taking corrective measures. But, unfortunately, the individuals whose benefits were threatened began hatching conspiracies against me and made the clip. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Disaster Risk...

said the plan was prepared following suggestions from Afghan experts and experiences of the regional countries. With the implementation of the bill, Afghanistan would be in a better situation for the next four years in risks management.

Barmak said, Afghanistan risks research system was also made ready and would be executable from April 2017 or the beginning of the coming solar year.

Afghanistan is 99 percent at risk of natural disasters and 60 percent of the country's geography is prone to earthquakes, he said, adding studies showed bad economic situation, insecurity and pressures of foreign countries on Afghan migrants to leave would face Afghanistan with poor humanitarian situation in the next solar year.

Ether Kuisch Laroche Director and

Representative of UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran during the meeting said that natural disasters seriously affect the local people's economy. To reduce the risks, the UNESCO implemented natural disasters' risks reduction programs in many countries that yielded good results.

She said UNESCO and other international organizations had carried out many workshops for natural disasters' risks reduction in Afghanistan by local human resources.

Calling the implementation of 'Sendai Framework' in Afghanistan valuable, she said the risks of natural disasters would be considerably declined if the agreement implemented.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.

It was endorsed in Sendai city, Japan, by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

The four priorities of the agreement are: understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from Aga Khan Development Network, ECO and UNESCO. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Helmand ...

said corruption and reluctance by security officials are main reasons behind the long war in Helmand.

"Negligence and inattention of officials as well as corruption has kept the Helmand war going," he added.

TOLONews reporter says a number of security forces are stationed at a house in Lashkargah PD3 and were trying to back the Taliban back.

"Here we are in this house and Taliban are in the other house. A few days ago, a suicide bomber came close to this house but we killed him before he tried to trigger his explosives," Raz Mohammad, a border police force member said.

"The attacks on our check posts start after 12 at night but we defend them," another police force member Ahmad Wali said. (Tolonews)

### (17) Afghan Refugee...

You can ask Mr. Dave McDaniel here. Mr. Grassley is saying that we are trying to get the American people safe. But I am a person from a Muslim country and I am a Muslim. Who is going to save me here? Who's going to stand behind me (inaudible)," Zalmy Naizi, Afghan refugee said.

Grassley agreed to look into his situation, and assured him that immigrants like himself would be allowed into the country based on future orders.

"So, it's my understanding that on the drafting of this (new executive order), they're going to make sure that people like you can come to this country legally and help us, will be able to get in. That'll be pretty clear. Then the third thing is you've hired a lawyer - I wish I knew you before you hired a lawyer I could have saved you a lot of money," Grassley said.

Many other questions from the floor focused on the president, including whether Republicans would investigate whether the Trump campaign made contact with Russian officials before the election. (Tolonews)

### (18) 30 IS Militants ...

Device (IED) they were building in a compound was detonated accidentally in neighboring Muhmand Dara district, an army source told Xinhua earlier on the day.

The mountainous province with Jalalabad city as its capital, 120 km east of national capital Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between security forces and IS militants since the emergence of IS there in early 2015.

The militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

### (19) Foundation Stone...

Elyas Wahdat, local officials and thousands of fans.

Mohammad Asif, a player from Paktika, said there were thousands of cricket enthusiasts in the province but they had no proper playground.

He was happy about the construction of the standard stadium in his province but asked relevant officials to closely monitor the construction process.

According to another report, the foundation stone of a building for Paktika labour and social affairs department was also laid.

Lal Aryubi, deputy director of labour and social affairs, said the construction of the building would cost \$200,000, to be paid by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

A day earlier, a dozen deputy ministers traveled to Paktika province, fol-

lowing directions from the president and they promised implementing essential projects in the coming solar year. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Afghan Taekwondo...

The Islamic Games will be conducted in Azerbaijan's capital Baku from May 12-22. Wasim said that the government would decide how many players would be sent to Baku. "Personally I feel eight male and eight female players should feature in the Islamic Games," Wasim said.

Winning medal in the Islamic Games in taekwondo would be hard as the Islamic world has the strongest of nations in the discipline. "We will be fighting against the world champions in the Islamic Games. There will be Iran, who got bronze in Rio Olympics. Egypt, Afghanistan, Jordan, and Nigeria are some of the countries who have world class fighters," the official said. (Agencies)

### (21) Theatre Girls...

"It was a good show. It delivered a good message and told us that we should respect and value to our children. We should also allow women and girls in our families to join the police and participate in ensuring the country's security," Jamila, a Kabul resident, said. (Tolonews)

### (22) Tests Show ...

was revealed that Greece didn't inform its neighbors that K. was in breach of probation rules following his early release for attempted murder in that country. (AP)

### (23) Taliban Shoot ...

active in parts of Baghlan province with Pul-e-Khumri as its capital, 160 km north of Kabul, are yet to claim responsibility. (Xinhua)

### (24) Zimbabwe Defeats

during the third match and elected to bat first against Afghanistan, setting a target of 130 runs.

The target was set after Zimbabwe lost all their wickets during the 32 overs of the game.

Afghanistan opened their batting inning aggressively but continuously lost their wickets until all of them were out 29th over of the game by scoring only 126 runs. (KP)

### (25) Int'l Community...

our own, to prevent and resolve conflicts is seriously undermining their credibility and making it more difficult for them to succeed in future," Guterres said. (Xinhua)

### (26) Trump Lays...

Mexico among Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the Mexican government. (AP)

### (27) UN Security ...

"an able, experienced and senior diplomat" who has made a huge contribution to the UN and multilateralism. "He worked till the last minute of his life, illustrating what it's meant by dedication and professionalism, and is thus an outstanding representative of diplomats," said Liu. (Xinhua)

### (28) EU Parliamentary...

of EU parliamentary chairs took place in Bratislava in early October 2016 as part of Slovakia's Presidency of the EU Council. (Xinhua)

### (29) NATO Should ...

Lithuania and the United States and strengthening transatlantic relations during the meeting. The U.S. is firm on its engagement with the Baltic States, news agency Elta reported Durbin as saying. An American military unit and equipment are already stationed in Lithuania. (Xinhua)

### (30) Increased NATO ....

decision included enhanced exercises and naval coordination of the NATO member states in the region of the Black Sea Basin. (Xinhua)

### (31) Iran to Stand

assistance. The support, together with backing from Russia, another ally of Syria, has played an instrumental role in the Syrian army's gains against Takfiri militants on several fronts. (Presstv)

### (32) Putin to Visit ...

discussed in Putin's meeting with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon. The two countries' leaders will also touch upon urgent international issues and prospects for cooperation in key multilateral organizations, such as the UN, Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and CIS. (Trend)

### (33) Turkmenistan to ...

continue to maintain fruitful cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and other major financial organizations," added Berdimuhamedov. (Trend)