

(1) Pakistan....

mechanism at various levels such as ground level, higher military level, intelligence level, political level, foreign office level. We [Pakistan] have already sent them our proposals and if they [Afghanistan] agree to it, I am hopeful it [the agreement] will be formalized during the [ECO] summit," the adviser said.

Mutual accusations
Bilateral relations have plunged to new lows in recent months with Islamabad and Kabul accusing each other of harboring anti-state militant groups and sponsoring terrorist attacks on their respective soils.

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a 2,600 kilometer, largely porous border. Tensions worsened this month when Pakistani leaders blamed militants sheltering on the Afghan side for a series of suicide bombings and other attacks across the country that killed scores of people.

The military also handed over a list of 76 militant leaders to the Afghan government following the bloodshed and demanded swift action against them and their extradition to Pakistan.

Kabul rejected the charges and instead provided Islamabad with its own list of 85 militant leaders as well as 32 terrorist training centers that the Afghan government alleged are based in Pakistan and plotting violence against Afghanistan. The Afghan Foreign Ministry, while responding to a Pakistani list of suspected fugitive terrorists, has said that it was ready to look into it and expected Islamabad to also go after militants wanted by Kabul.

Pakistan has also sealed all its border crossings with Afghanistan since the wave of terrorist attacks hit the country two weeks ago. Foreign policy adviser Aziz, while speaking on Saturday, expressed hope the border would be reopened soon. (VoA)

(2) FIFA Warns

The Federation by the FIFA, the letter says.

"We don't want the Afghan football to face the fate of Pakistan or Indonesia and we don't want to lose the pride we have gained in last 96 years. We don't want to see the Afghan football collapse because of interferences which are baseless," said Sayed Ali Reza Aqazada, the AFF secretary general.

The FIFA letter said that while the AFF election was supposed to be held in April, but it should be delayed until the international association completed its assessment of the situation.

"The sons of this soil are bringing pride to their country in a situation that there is war, explosion and attacks in Afghanistan. Interference in this respect [sports] will probably suspend the membership of the Afghan football and Olympic federations in FIFA," said Zahir Aghbar, head of the National Olympic Committee.

Government's relevant organizations have expressed different views on the matter.

Ahmad Zia Massoud, President Ghani's special envoy for reforms and good governance, said government will never allow any interference in sports affairs.

"The achievements in sports will be lost if sport in Afghanistan is politicized or if tribal issues are added to it. This is not good. We will not let any institution interfere in Afghanistan's sports affairs. Let the sport to grow in its natural path," Massoud stated.

Sports and freedom of expression are among biggest achievements of governments since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. (Tolnews)

(3) Pakistan Should ...

were still living in the neighbor country. However, the ministry said a number of Afghan refugees have been detained and harassed by Pakistani forces allegedly in connection to recent terrorist attacks in parts Pakistan.

A number of Afghans have been freed as result of the Afghan embassy's efforts in Pakistan and efforts were underway to release the rest of other Afghan refugees still kept in police custody, the source said.

The ministry said Pakistan cabinet has recently extended stay of Afghan refugees with valid Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until the end of 2017 and approved the registration of unregistered refugees.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed in this regard during a trilateral meeting of Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR in Islamabad on February 15, the source added. Based on the MoU, all the three sides should be committed to the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees and the migration should not be used as a political pressure.

The Afghan government welcomes hosting of Afghan refugees and the Pakistan's new commitments in the regard, but Afghanistan wants Pakistan not to politicize the refugees matter and help release the Afghans detained in that country, MoRR said. (Pajhwok)

(4) ISIS May...

in northern Jawzjan province. According to ISW, the loyalists of the

terror group may particularly use the opportunity provided to them with the absence of the Junbish-e-Millie fighters led by the Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

"ISIS's expansion in the region comes as First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum, who maintains significant influence in the North through his Junbish Militia, remains confined to his home surrounded by his militia in Kabul City following a scandal involving the alleged assault of former Jowzjan Provincial Governor Ahmad Eschi in November 2016 by his bodyguards," the US-based think tank said in a report. The report further added that "The lack of reported Junbish militia action to combat ISIS-linked militants in Northern Afghanistan may represent the absence of Junbish militias. Alternatively, Dostum may be sanctioning the expansion of ISIS in the region in order to demonstrate his significance to Afghan security in an attempt to relieve the political pressure to prosecute him for the alleged assault."

"Meanwhile, the ANSF is currently undergoing a U.S.-led force regeneration process during their 2016-2017 winter campaign. The Afghan National Unity Government has historically relied on a joint force of ANSF units and Junbish militiamen to provide security in northwestern Afghanistan. The lessened presence of Dostum's militia while the ANSF rests and refits units may be granting ISIS-linked militants increased freedom of movement in the region," the report added.

This comes as the Afghan officials have long been expressing concerns regarding the attempts being made by the ISIS loyalists to expand in northern parts of the country as they look to infiltrate further into the Central Asian States. (KP)

(5) Helmand Historical....

destruction of that Bost castle.

Abdul Ghani, 80, has spent 40 years there is looking after the Castel and is trying to keep from being destroyed. "Bost Castle is our cultural heritage and we should save it. Afghanistan's history lives in this castle," he said.

Helmand youths spend some of their weekends at this castle and have called on the government save their cultural heritage.

"Everything in this castle is destroyed. If government does not do anything about it, it will be gone," Samiullah, a student said.

It is not only Bost Castle that is being destroyed, but 50% of Helmand artificial and historical sites are under Taliban control. (Tolnews)

(6) Iran- Afghanistan....

He added that linking Iran's railway system to neighboring countries is a priority for Iran.

Recently, Iran's railway system was linked to Turkmenistan via Inche-Burun border checkpoint, Ashouri recalled, adding the Islamic Republic railways will also be connected to Azerbaijan via Astara border checkpoint within three months. (Agencies)

(7) 150 ISIS ...

said the Shaheen-25 operations are successfully being conducted and several commanders of the terror group are among those killed or wounded.

Khogyani further added that the coalition forces are also supporting the Afghan forces during their fight against the loyalists of the terror group.

He said the US forces are providing close air support to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

The Shaheen-25 operations were launched ten days ago to suppress the growing insurgency of ISIS terrorist group in Nangarhar province.

The operations led by 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces were launched after receiving approval from the national security council of the country.

This comes as the officials were concerned that the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to expand their foothold in Nangarhar and turn the province into their regional operational base, forcing the Afghan officials as well as the US administration to resume airstrikes against the group. (KP)

(8) Dozens Rally ...

another resident of Kabul who attended the protest.

"We want to deliver the message to Pakistani military that we will respond there strictly," said Sayed Abrar, a protester.

The protesters' convoy has left Kabul for Nangarhar and security forces will escort them to Torkham. (Tolnews)

(9) Balkh Painters ...

always want peace in Afghanistan and urge the armed anti-government groups to join the peace process towards a country of no violence," said Fahima, a civil society activist. (Tolnews)

(10) Zakhilwal Hopes...

briefing Thursday. The spokesman said issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan need to be addressed through constructive and positive engagements.

Security officials in Pakistan claim that several alleged training camps and hideouts of the terrorist groups in the

Afghan side of the border were destroyed in recent days. (Xinhua)

(11) Sikh Community's....

the student could comfortably study.

Currently boys and girls study in the same school but they feared that some families my stop their daughters when they rise up.

Prena, the student of fourth class, said her family may not allow her to continue co-education in the future asking for a facility where girls and boys could study separately.

Ustad Iqbal, a teacher and religious scholar, expressed similar concerns. He said three of their teachers were Muslims who were not allowed during religious events in the Daramsal.

The Sikh community has also allotted land for a special school but no practical work has been so far carried out by the Education department after promises it held for many years, Iqbal lamented.

He said earlier the school children were deprived of education due to lack of a special school and now there was no building where the student could study. Baba Kabir Primary School's headmaster, Mohammad Akram Tarin, told Pajhwok the 60 enrolled students at the school were being taught by four teachers.

He said the school had two formal teachers and as many contracted teachers. Besides the education ministry's curriculum, Sikhism and Hindko language—mother tongue of Sikhs—were also being taught to students, he added. Tarin also asked the education department to give priority to constructing a building for the special school for Sikhs in order the teachers go to school easily and students attend classes in a comfortable environment.

On the other hand, Nangarhar education department officials, while acknowledging the issues faced by the students, said the construction work on the special school building halted due to the lack of budget.

Proposals of the school construction had been sent to a number of organizations, said the education department's spokesman, Mohammad Asif Shinwari. The school has also been given priority in the next 1396 solar year's budget, he stated.

They were ready to construct the school building if the budget was approved on time or an organization came forward to provide assistance in this regard.

"We will increase the teacher staff as students' number grows and when the number reached the specific level, boys and girls will be segregated and taught in separate classes in line with the ministry's regulations." However, he assured all the issues of the school would be addressed.

Currently about 80 Sikh families live in Jalalabad city amounting to a total of 500 people, who are suffering from various issues besides the education problem. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Leader....

to the killing of three policemen. He was also involved in public trials, execution, and torture of the local residents on various charges in Bamyan as well as Baghlan province.

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

Bamyan is among the calm provinces in central Afghanistan but occasionally witness instability mainly due to its geographic location with the some of the central and northern restive provinces. (KP)

(13) Lack of....

business and build freezer facilities if government does not help us. We will face more problems. You see here that we have lost everything," Humayun, a businessman said.

"We don't have to export onions aboard if government builds standard freezers for us. We are self-reliant in onion production," Nijabat Haidari, head of Fruit and Vegetables Export Union said.

Meanwhile, the ministry of agriculture said they have built at least 606 small and medium freezers for onions and potato across the country.

The MAIL spokesman Lotfullah Rashid said the businessmen should have called for the ministry's help to keep their products this year.

"There are problems, but the ministry cannot do marketing for them. We continue our efforts to work with farmers on their fields and provide the ground for better harvests," Rashid said. (Tolnews)

(14) Standing ...

During four long years of struggle, despite knowing the implications, she was determined to take her fight against injustice to conclusion, come what may. She said she wanted to continue her education after she completed secondary level school education, but a marriage proposal by her family came in the way of realizing her dreams.

Bushra was in 10th class when her family got her engaged to an illiterate person in Mazari-Sharif and was forced by her future husband to not pursue her further studies. Bushra said she got a hint about this person's indulgence in Bachabazi and despite sharing her concern with her

family, her parents decided to go ahead with her marriage for fear of social stigma.

Wedded to exploitation
Recounting her ordeal, right from the first day of her marriage, Bushra said her husband demanded total submission to his demands. With disgust and agony evident in her voice, she said: "That night he behaved in a wild manner with me."

After a week, when I saw my husband in compromising position with a boy "I was shaking due to the fear and horror from what I had witnessed. My husband, instead warned me against talking about what she had seen."

She informed her mother about her husband's ever increasing indulgence in Bachabazi, however, she advised her to live with her husband. She gave in to her mother's advice and continued living her husband.

Despite her persuasions, her husband continued with this immoral act. "Even on Eid festival, I saw my husband sleeping with that boy," Bushra said.

Her husband's immorality had crossed all limits when he tried to molest a six year old girl during funeral ceremony of Bushra's two brothers who died in a car accident. "It was beyond my imagination that her husband could continue with his deeds in this hour while I was grieving for my brothers."

"I had two options, either commit suicide or raise my voice against injustice, I chose the latter."

Local tribal Jirga grants divorce
She shared the issue with all her family members and her father decided to resolve the issue through the local tribal Jirga.

The Jirga comprising of tribal elders, family members of both sides and religious leaders concluded that my rights have been wronged and granted divorce from her husband. After the divorce, her husband threatened to kill her. "Threats did not scare me anymore rather made me more determined towards my resolve to fight for myself and the voiceless of my society," she said.

She said that the immoral practice of deviant sexual conduct has social implications apart from destroying the self esteem of those who are abused. "Bachabazi is an un-Islamic and inhuman act which should be eradicated from our society."

With the encouragement of her parents and renewed zeal, Bushra completed her law degree with the intent of helping the voiceless of the society. "I took a vow to help the victims of such exploitation and eradicate this custom from my society," Bushra added.

"I am happy to have transformed myself from a helpless woman to a helpful citizen. It fills me with extreme content when I see people feeling proud of me." According to her, whenever people are subjected to violence and injustice, they should try to find out solution from the support system available to them such as judicial institutions. "It is saddening to find that many women commit suicide to escape the cruelty and injustice, which is a cowardice and un-Islamic act. Problems and solutions co-exist. All what is needed is courage to stay calm and have faith in God. Had I committed suicide, I would have wasted my life in this world and the faced the hell fire on the day of Judgement."

Religious scholars: Bushra's act must be appreciated
Shamsurrahman Frotan, a member of Ulema (Scholars) Council of Afghanistan said, Pederasty (Boy Play) is a bad and shameful tradition, which is haram and punishable in Islam. Citing Holy Quran, he said: "Allah destroyed entire Lot tribe for its indulgence in such a practice."

He commended Burshra's courage by saying that "what she has done is laudable and highly praiseworthy." AIHRC: Bushra's struggle deserves to be documented in film
The Dr. Soraya Sobhrang, Woman Commissioner at Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), termed Bacha Bazi as a despicable custom and a sensitive issue to address.

She noted that the indecent practice of Bachabazi exists in most parts of the country. Unfortunately, due to the stigma attached to sexual exploitation, complainant do not come forward to report to authorities consequently the problem remains unresolved. (Pajhwok)

(15)Mass Grave ...
back to the era of Soviet Union invasion of Maimana city. The people killed during the massacre were buried near the current Airport area. Over the past one year when people started building houses over the area, then they found bones while digging which they brought and buried in the graveyard secretly overnight. (Pajhwok)

(16)Badakhshan:

in Badakhshan province, he stated. Sayed Abdullah Humayon Dihqan, Afghanistan National Disaster Management provincial director, said "We are thankful to the friend country China for distributing food aid to the Pamiris in Wakhan district". (Pajhwok)

(17)6 Commanders....

operation were still laid on the incident

scene. Daesh group has said nothing in this regard.

The Shaheen-25 operation was launched in Kot and Haska Mena districts of Nangarhar on February 12, 2017. Dozens of villages have so far been cleared and many Daesh fighters killed during the offensives. (Pajhwok)

(18)2 Dead, 4

Khoshal, the resident of locality said the Panjsher River which flows in the area drowned public lands due to which people sometimes indulged in disputes. Separately, two people a father and a son were wounded in unidentified gunmen attack in Shokhi locality, he said.

The injured had been evacuated to the hospital, he added. (Pajhwok)

(19)5 Road....

and help them free from the Taliban, Amin said.

A tribal elder from Surkhbar area, Sahib Gul, said they had contacted the Taliban for release of the engineers.

"We are talking about the issue with the Taliban, but our talks did not yield any results so far," he said.

He asked the Taliban to release the engineers as soon as possible and said the road construction in the area was very important for the people.

Global Construction Company's officials did not share any information about the incident.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid said that they were unaware about the incident. "We would investigate about it and would also clear whether the company is authorized by the Taliban to work in the area," he said. He said that Taliban did not create any problems for those who work in welfare projects.

The construction process of the road was started about two months ago. The district police chief and three workers of the Global Construction Company were injured and a policeman killed by a roadside bombing during the first survey of the road. (Pajhwok)

(20)Man Sentenced...

of killing your wife, and her child and in terms of line two of article 22 of the non-violence act against women, and according to line seven of article 395 of criminal code, you are sentenced to death," said Merajuddin Meraj, head of Kabul appeal court.

The brother of the victim, Merwais, and the case prosecutor, Obaidullah Samson, said the child of the victim also was died when the mother was killed. "He confessed that he fired three times at his wife and caused her death," the prosecutor said.

"That night Noorullah was in our house. He said to his wife that they had to talk. But when his wife wanted to go out of the room, he fired at her three times and she, along with her child, were killed," said Merwais, brother of the victim.

Noorullah said he was not in good mental health when he attacked his wife. He is now regretful of what he had done. "I did not have any problem with my wife. I did not understand how it happened, God knows that I did not understand how it happened," he said.

The appeal court also said officials of Kabul Ninth Police Station (PD9) should be investigated by judicial departments, because they did not submit the weapon of the murderer.

Noorullah killed his wife using an illegal weapon. (Tolnews)

(21)Pakistani Police ...

from different bus stops and bus stations.

Meanwhile, in Lahore, during search operations in hostels of Punjab University and other areas of the city, seven suspects were taken into custody.

In Sialkot's Hajipur, ten suspects were detained and in Peshawar police claimed to arrest at least 50 people, the report stated. (Tolnews)

(22)Flour, Gold...

kilograms of Pakistani rice 1,600aafs and a tin of 16 liters of Khurshid ghee 1,100aafs, the same prices of last week's. Haji Rahmatullah, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Madina green tea cost 240aafs and the same amount of African black tea 260aafs, the same rates as of last week's.

Ahmad Sharif, who owns a grocery store in Taimani neighborhood, said a 49kg bag of Kazakhstani flour was sold for 1,280aafs, 49kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,290aafs.

He sold 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,180aafs, 24.5kg sack of Pakistani rice for 1,800aafs, a kilo of Madina green tea for 280aafs and the same quantity of African black tea for 300aafs – higher than wholesale prices.

The price of Russian gold also increased. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Russian gold increased from 1,800aafs to 1,850aafs while the price of the same quantity of Arabian variety remained steady at 2,300aafs.

However, the prices of liquefied gas and fuel remain unchanged. Ahmad Siyar, a gas seller in Kolola Poshta, sold a kilogram of gas at 55aafs, the same rate as of last week's.

Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazirabad Fuel Station, said a liter of petrol cost 45aafs and the same quantity of diesel 41aafs, registering no change.

Sayed Islam, a firewood seller in Charahi-i-Shahid area of Kabul, said 560 kilograms of peeled oak cost 6,900 afghanis and the same quantity of cedar 6,700aafs, the same rates of the last week.

According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar was accounted for 67.65aafs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 624aafs against last week's 66.45aafs and 625aafs. (Pajhwok)

(23)White House....

Priebus then asked both FBI Director James Comey and Deputy Director Andrew McCabe if they would condemn the story publicly, which they declined to do.

"The chief of staff said, well, you've put us in a very difficult situation," Spicer said. "You've told us that a story that made some fairly significant accusations was not true. And now you want us to just sit out there." (AP)

(24)Iraqi PM....

discussed "cooperation between the two countries, who are trying to resolve the problems that the whole region is suffering from," the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement.

Jubeir said that his visit to Baghdad comes "to restore the bilateral ties between the two countries back on track," asserting that his country "stands at the same distance from all the Iraqi factions, and supports the unity and stability of Iraq," the ministry statement said.

Jubeir's visit also came as the Iraqi security forces backed by anti-IS international coalition are carrying out a major offensive to drive out the IS militants from their major stronghold in the western side of Mosul in northern Iraq. (Xinhua)

(25)UN Relief

Kenya has more than doubled to 2.7 million in the past six months.

O'Brien will meet with stakeholders on the humanitarian crises in all three countries, he added. (Xinhua)

(26)Merkel Formally....

by her center-left predecessor, Gerhard Schroeder, some of which Schulz has suggested he might amend. (AP)

(27)Boosting Erdogan ...

ahead of his speech, with images of the victims also appearing on banners held by the audience.

Yildirim, upon arrival, handed out red carnations to supporters.

In his speech he insisted no one would be forced to back the changes, which the government says are necessary for political harmony but which critics fear will create one-man rule under Erdogan. Under the new constitution, the president will have strengthened executive powers to directly appoint top public officials including ministers. (AFP)

(28)OPEC Says...

implementing the output cut strategy in March. The press release said that there is still room for improvement to reach 100 percent conformity in production cut. (Xinhua)

(29)Iraqi Forces ...

Humvee that delivered the detainees. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. "They were shooting at us, I saw them with my own eyes," he said. (AP)

(30)Guterres Mulls...

also developing a support package to provide material assistance and support to Haitians most directly affected by cholera. "In his letter, the secretary-general says that the UN bears a moral responsibility for ensuring that the new approach is implemented," the spokesman said. Haiti has been dealing with a cholera outbreak since October 2010, some nine months after it suffered a devastating earthquake. The outbreak has affected an estimated 788,000 people and claimed the lives of more than 9,000. Concerted national and international efforts, backed by the United Nations, have resulted in a 90 percent reduction in the number of suspected cases. While the number of those affected remains high, and recent outbreaks – partly heightened by the impact of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 – show the continued vulnerability of the population to the disease, UN officials have said the challenge is not insurmountable. (Xinhua)

(31)Attack on...
was killed along with 29 others in al-Mohata, while another 12 people were killed in al-Ghouta, the Observatory said. State media gave a lower figure of 32 people killed. "Five suicide bombers attacked two branches of state security and military security in Homs... thanks be to God," Tahrir al-Sham said in a statement on the Telegram social network. (Reuters)

(32)Uzbek-Kazakh...

promotion and support of specific cooperation projects in trade, investment, technology, transportation and communication. Askar Mamin, for his part, confirmed Kazakhstan's willingness to expand full-scale practical cooperation with Uzbekistan. (Trend)