

## KSA's Humanitarian Aid Agency Chief Meets Tajikistan Envoy

JEDDAH - Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, supervisor general of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief), met Tajik Ambassador Zarobiddin Qosimi in Riyadh on Sunday. They discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides.

On Saturday, KSRelief signed agreements with Tajikistan's Emergency and Civil Defense Committee and the Land Reclamation and Irrigation Agency to support relief projects for people affected by seasonal floods and other natural disasters.

KSRelief Assistant General Supervisor Ahmed bin Ali Al-Bayez signed the agreements on the center's behalf. Under the agreement with the Emergency and Civil Defense Committee of Tajikistan, KSRelief will extend fi-



financial assistance for the purchase of necessary equipment and formation of rapid response teams.

The second deal aims at providing Tajik Land Reclamation and Irrigation Agency with funds to maintain its concrete fenders project in its rivers to protect villages.

The Kingdom's humanitarian tenders

in accordance with the official Saudi Aid Platform in its current phase (2007-2017) have reached a total of \$32.83 billion.

The number of the Kingdom's humanitarian, development and philanthropic projects reached 1,084, with a total of \$31.90 billion for 78 benefiting countries. (Arab News)

## Chinese, Russian Leaders Exchange New Year Greetings

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin exchanged New Year greetings on Monday.

In his congratulatory message to Putin, Xi said that the year 2018 has a special significance in China-Russia relations, and both countries have smoothly completed their respective important domestic political agendas and opened a new era for China-Russia ties.

During the year, China and Russia witnessed more frequent high-level exchanges, deepened mutual political trust and a series of achievements from bilateral pragmatic cooperation in various fields, Xi said. The Year of China-Russia Local Cooperation and Exchange program proceeded smoothly in 2018, and

the popular support for friendship from generation to generation between the two peoples has been further consolidated, the Chinese president said.

The two countries collaborated actively in international and regional affairs and played important constructive roles in safeguarding international fairness and justice as well as world peace and stability, he said. The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia, Xi said, noting that he is willing to work with Putin to prompt bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields to make new progress and bring more benefits to the two countries and peoples. (Xinhua)

### (1) New Election Date...

calendar and provide regular public updates throughout the process. As the detailed calendar for the July 2019 election provides key information to the electorate, the candidates and the many stakeholders involved in the poll, the United Nations looks forward to its timely publication.

The United Nations maintains that the presidential election is critical to the future of Afghanistan, and its mismanagement would be unacceptable.

The United Nations urges the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) to focus on its mandated role of investigating and adjudicating complaints arising from the parliamentary elections. All actors with credible and grounded concerns about irregularities and fraud should submit complaints to the ECC in keeping with Afghanistan's electoral laws and constitution. No one has the right to disrupt the electoral process and the country's stability through incitement or threats. Recognizing that there were major and avoidable irregularities in the preparations and implementation of the parliamentary elections, the United Nations urges the IEC and the ECC to take necessary corrective measures and focus intensively in the coming months on completing a full package of realistic and prioritized reforms. These reforms should include cleaning the voters' registry, establishing a clear division of responsibilities between the Independent Election Commission and the IEC Secretariat, ensuring a fully staffed and trained professional Secretariat, and making any needed changes to their own structures, well ahead of the July 2019 election.

The United Nations will maintain its coordination of the international community's assistance to support Afghan electoral institutions in the conduct of credible, transparent, and acceptable

The United Nations stresses that all stakeholders have a responsibility for the credibility and legitimacy of the elections process. (Pajhwok)

### (2) ARG Palace...

IEC Chief Gula Jan Abdul Badi Sayad said the commission would not be able to hold presidential elections on 20th of April due to the existing issues in the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan.

Sayad further added that security, operational, and technical related issues are among the key problems the Independent Election Commission is facing to hold the presidential elections on time.

He said the commission is also facing other issues, including technical and operational problems to hold the elections as scheduled before. (KP)

### (3) Ineffective...

suspicious activities.

"The new method of police activities is more effective and criminals no longer have the courage to appear in open", the MoI release added.

The new measures come after Amrullah Saleh took charge as acting interior minister on December 23. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Parliament Approves...

The ministry says that 61 billion afghanis of the development budget is optional and 63 billion afghanis non-optional.

In today's Wolesi Jirga session, 136 lawmakers were present and only seven of them voted against the budget plan and the rest endorsed it. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Jeddah Talks...

deputy spokesman of Chief Executive Officer said.

"It is America that has guaranteed the peace talks. Taliban are at war with us and we are at war with Taliban. We do not have expectations from Taliban," Khalid Pashton, an MP said.

Earlier this month, Taliban and the US officials held a two-day meeting in Abu Dhabi, and the Taliban refused to meet the Afghan government delegation who were there, hoping to hold close talks with the group.

"We accept that government's capability in the peace process is very weak and cannot make a political consensus. But there is no option, we should enter the government in the process," Baryalai Helalai, a military affairs analyst said.

In the meantime, Pakistan Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, on Monday went to Qatar to hold talks with Qatar officials over the Afghan peace talks.

Qureshi's visit to Qatar takes place amid a phone conversation on Saturday between the US State Secretary and Qatar's Foreign Minister on Afghan peace.

"Pakistan, with a regional approach, has decided to exchange views with its friend nations about the situation in the region and the Afghanistan issue and gain their trust. Thus, I went to Kabul, Tehran, Beijing and Moscow," said Qureshi.

"Pakistan's efforts raises hope," political affairs analyst Assadullah Walwaji said.

Alongside, Pakistani media have reported that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Qatar and Turkey also to hold talks with officials of these countries on important issues, including Afghan peace. (Tolo news)

### (6) Iran Deputy...

document that should be signed by the presidents of the two countries. Qasemi also confirmed on Monday that a Taliban delegation held extensive talks with Iran's Araqchi in Tehran yesterday.

He said the meeting followed a re-

cent visit by the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani to Afghanistan during which he held talks with Afghan officials on Dec 26.

Following the visit, he said, a Taliban delegation travelled to Tehran on Sunday to hold detailed talks with Araqchi. (IRNA)

### (7) Former Afghanistan...

resignation in June 2010 after he made scathing remarks in a magazine article about administration officials, including about Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. (AP)

### (8) Kandahar Gathering...

Board to convey the voices of women in a clear manner to the international community.

Tens of women spoke at the gathering who stressed that durable peace was essential for bringing stability to the country. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Adela Raz...

She identified policy areas where UNAMA Central Field Office could help the Ministry of Women Affairs and its regional offices adopting approaches about women participation in economic and social arenas. She helped running the Political Rights Verification Campaign during the first presidential and parliamentary elections, according to her biography published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2013, Ms. Adela Raz was appointed as a first female Deputy Spokesperson and Director of Communications for the President. She moved into a new position as the Chief of Staff at the Administrative Office of the President in November 2014, and in March 2016, she assumed her current post as the new Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperation. (KP)

### (10) 34 Powerful Land...

Abaseen, Dr. Abdul Munir, Ilhamuddin, Sarwar, Miran Shah, Ziraki, Aimal, Malak Mohammad Wali, Sayed Rohullah, Shah Agha, Yar Mal, Mohammad Arif, Mohammad Asif, ShirAbaz, Khial Mohammad Wasih, Ali Mohammad Baryal, Khalil, Naqibullah, Miro Khan, Sarwar and a number of others.

The detainees have been introduced to the attorney's office and dozens of others have been in jail and at the police headquarters for being involved in usurping land belonging to the Canal Department in Behsud, Sara Rod, Rodat and Kama districts.

Hayat assured the people that a strong plan had been made to arrest those involved in land-grabbing across the province and to introduce them to attorneys as soon as possible.

He urged the judicial organs to be careful while releasing the alleged grabbers against guarantees.

But Burhan Seerat, a civil society activist, said he was skeptical about the campaign because the governor's office did not share exact information about the

detainees and progress in their cases. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Construction...

goods between Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces and would play an important role in giving a boost to Jawzjan's economy.

Work on this road would complete in the beginning of 1399 solar year, Kargar said.

Shiberghan residents when asked said were happy about the project implementation but complained the construction process has been slow.

Amir Mohammad Taswir, a resident of Shiberghan city, said: "Any projects that come to our city are appreciable."

He said the ring road project would hugely benefit local residents in their movement once completed.

Wali Halima Mehryar, another resident, complained about the slow-paced work on the road and said high tonnage vehicles on the route had disturbed peoples' lives in the area.

She asked the officials concerned to accelerate work on the project and complete it on its defined date.

Shiberghan city has 17 kilometers of asphalted roads but some of them are partially damaged and need reconstruction. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Taliban Commander...

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

Faryab is among the relatively volatile provinces in North of Afghanistan. The Taliban militants are active in some of districts and often attempt to carry out attacks against the government and security forces.

In the meantime, the Afghan forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations to suppress the anti-government armed militants in Faryab and other restive provinces in the North. (KP)

### (13) Kabul Air...

from 10 meters due to pollution," he said.

Use of low-quality and non-standard fuels by government and non-government departments and by the people, use of old vehicles and lack of snow and rain in Kabul have been said to be the main reasons behind air pollution. (Tolo news)

### (14) Taliban Delegation...

details were shared with the Afghan government in Shamkhani's trip to Kabul last week.

Two weeks ago, the US and Taliban officials held meetings in Abdu Dhabi to discuss a political settlement and ways to facilitate direct talks between the militants and the Afghan government. The Taliban said they also held meetings with officials from the UAE, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, but the militants refused to meet a delegation from Afghanistan.

Last week, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi embarked

on a whirlwind, three-day four-nation tour of Afghanistan, Iran, China and Russia in connection with the Afghan peace process.

On Sunday, Qureshi had arrived in Qatar and held meeting with top Qatari leaders, including the prime minister and voice prime minister and discussed Afghan reconciliation process and other regional issues.

On the other hand, deputy defence minister of Saudi Arabia has traveled to Pakistan and discussed Afghan peace parleys with chief of army staff.

Two days back, President Ashraf Ghani has held telephonic conversation with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and discussed peace parleys. The next round of peace talks on a negotiated end to the 17-year-old conflict in Afghanistan will take place on January 15, 2019 in Saudi Arabia. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Uruzgan's...

Another tribal elder, Haji Mirajan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that two months back the Taliban attacked the district and as a result, their homes were destroyed and they suffered human and financial losses.

"Still the district bazaar under siege, Taliban attack security check-posts every night", he concluded.

Maleem Faiz Mohammad, the district's administrative head and police chief Akhtar Mohammad also confirmed these issues and told Pajhwok that logistics and other supplies could not reach them on time and sometimes even wounded soldiers could not be shifted away from the battleground.

Governor Mohammad Shafiq Asadullah Sayeed said his trip to the Chinarto district was aimed at hearing from people about their concerns. He promised to dispatch food items from Tirinkot, the provincial capital, to the district at the earliest. He called on the Taliban in the district to join the peace process and shun insurgency. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Salim Who...

in the absence of government support.

Nasrullah Seyasi, the martyrs and disabled department director, said if Salim referred to their office, they would help him. Seyasi refused to talk more about the issue.

Ghazni governor's spokesman, Mohammad Arif Noori, said disabled soldiers were assisted by aid giving organizations through their aid distribution programs.

"We have the plan to further help this soldier," he said.

Previously, many soldiers who lost their limbs to the war had made similar complaints to Pajhwok. (Pajhwok)

### (17) At Least 7...

He criticized the security organs unable to arrest the killers of these murders. However, Pajhwok tried to contact security officials for comment, but failed. (Pajhwok)