

(1) 'XI, Putin...

China is seeking business interests in Afghanistan and is sensitive to any spoiler of Islamic-inspired extremism from the country, which has a short border with its mostly Muslim western region of Xinjiang. Afghanistan has "observer" status in the SCO, along with India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan, according to the group's website.

The summit will begin procedures for India and Pakistan to join the group as full members after their candidatures were approved last year, Cheng said.

The acceptance of the nuclear-armed rivals -- which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and jockey for influence in Afghanistan -- would mark the SCO's first expansion since its inception in 2001. (Pajhwok)

(2) Draft of Mining...

procedures. "The mining law has been amended many times but there is no specific regulation for interpretation of the law."

Last month, Mines Minister Daud Shah Sabah pledged reviewing of mines law, who asked experts to share their suggestions with his ministry.

According to Noori, the mineral areas that are under threat or being extracted illegally would be identified and a list sent to security organs. (Pajhwok)

(3) SCO Should ...

peaceful and stable Afghanistan and welcome its government's efforts aimed at carrying out democratic reforms and the implementation of the country's national development plan."

Atambayev added that he considered the involvement of the Afghan side in the SCO's activities to be a positive factor. "Afghanistan has had a SCO observer status since 2012, but even before it formally acquired this status it took part in the sessions as a guest and later as a dialogue partner," he said. "The direct presence of the Afghan side at the talks gives us an opportunity to exchange views and discuss the whole range of security issues and also measures to combat the threats emanating from Afghanistan at the negotiating table." (TASS)

(4) President Reviews...

framework of the ID cards process and set characteristics for a decree in this regard.

The president asked the two committees to find solution to the existing challenges and problems in the ID cards process.

He asked the two committees to jointly identify their policy, schedule and requirements for centralising the process and explain if an exclusive department in this regard be established simultaneously with the test drive or later.

The president called for preparing an exclusive programme and stressed implementation of the project and the need for a technical consensus on questions regarding the project's technical area.

He said the basic condition for the ID cards project was the system's durability and continuation. He said a final policy about the entire project should be presented to the Cabinet for approval. (Pajhwok)

(5) Abdullah Promises...

corpses allegedly desecrated. "It is an important issue and we have already discussed it in an extraordinary meeting of National Security Council," Abdullah said. "We have assigned a team to investigate the incident in all levels and the team has started its work."

The Jalrez fighting broke out last Thursday after a number of insurgents stormed the district and seized all nine police checkpoints of Jalrez.

The police posts were retaken after three days of battle in an operation by the reinforcement troops deployed to the area.

On the other hand, the senators during Sunday's session decided to close the doors of the Upper House until Wednesday in protest of what they called the national unity government's negligence in handling the clash between Afghan troops and Taliban militants in Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak province.

Expressing strong criticism against security officials, the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) members blamed the deadly Jalrez battle on government's carelessness.

Also, President Ashraf Ghani has recently called the desecration of the corpses of soldiers a "war crime." (Tolonews)

(6) Modi Holds Talks ...

their foreign offices and in the field of culture and tourism.

Modi, who arrived here in the Uzbek capital on the first leg of his eight-day visit to Central Asia and Russia, was received at the airport by his counterpart Shavkat Mirmonovich Mirziyoyev and was accorded a ceremonial welcome.

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Addressing a joint press event, Modi said, "I have begun my journey in Uzbekistan underlining its importance for India, not just in this region, but also in Asia. President Karimov and I discussed various initiatives to further enhance connectivity between India and Uzbekistan."

He said they also discussed international and regional issues including the situation in Afghanistan and reiterated the importance of peace and stability in the country.

And in this context, Modi said both the leaders talked about the rising threat of extremism and terrorism in the "extended neighbourhood" of the two countries.

Noting that in recent years, India and Uzbekistan have built a strategic partnership on the foundation of mutual respect and shared interests, Modi said he conveyed his keen interest to sustain regular high level dialogue between the two sides.

"I briefed President about the International North South Transport Corridor and proposed that Uzbekistan consider becoming a member," Modi said. (PTI)

(7) Ata Mohd Noor...

by Noor was followed a day after the Afghan lawmakers in the Lower House of the Parliament - Wolesi Jirga rejected Masoom Stanikzai as Afghanistan's defense minister.

Noor said he is recommending nominees for the Ministry of Defense considering the importance of the ministry and ongoing situation of the country.

The nominees proposal by Noor to the leaders of the government of national unity, includes:

1. Former Defense Minister Bismillah Mohammadi.
2. Gen. Abdul Rauf Begi.
3. Former Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Atiqullah Baryalai.
4. Deputy Afghan Army Chief of Staff Gen. Murad Ali Murad.
5. Gen. Mohammad Daud Azizi
6. Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Humayun Fawzi.
7. Former Deputy Interior Minister for security Gen. Helaluddin Helal.
8. Gen. Hafizullah
9. Commander of border protection forces Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi.
10. Gen. Abdullah Habibi.
11. Senior Air Force Officer Gen. Dawran Khan.

Noor had earlier expressed angry reactions regarding the nomination of Masoom Stanikzai as the minister of defense by the government and accused him of being involved in a plot which led to the assassination of the former Afghan President and high peace council chief Burhanuddin Rabbani.

stanikzai was the third nominee for the Ministry of Defense and was nominated for the post by the government. The second nominee for the Ministry of Defense was Gen. Afzal Ludin who gave up his nomination earlier in April this year.

The initial nominee for the Ministry of Defense was the former Afghan Army Chief of Staff Gen. Sher Mohammad Karimi who was rejected by the lawmakers in the Lower House of the Parliament. (KP)

(8) Govt. Property ...

ownership of the building was claimed by pro-Rabbani people.

Mohammad Faqir Akhonzada, who hails from Kandahar province and has been living in Makkah with his family since 20 years, said the Rabat-e-Afghani building was a good place for poor Afghan pilgrims.

Another religious scholar Mullah Abdul Ghani used to teach pilgrims about Hajj related rituals at the facility.

Ghani said the building was sold to an Arab Sheikh by a close aide of Ustad Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former president of Afghanistan, on throwaway price.

It was decided that the payment would be made in three installments, he said, adding that the

Arab Sheikh leveled that structure of the building and constructed new building.

The Sheikh, he said had also paid the first installment but then soon the government of Rabbani was collapsed.

According to Akhonzada, during the Taliban regime, the issue was taken up but could not be resolved because Taliban had no friendly ties with Saudi Arabia in the first years of their government.

Abdul Hai Habibi, an Afghan historian writes about Rabat-e-Afghani: "Abdul Karim Barakzai and Meh-rabuddin Noorzai had constructed the building following directions by Ahmad Shah Baba, the then king of Afghan empire in early 18th century."

Another Afghan historian Mir Ghulam Mohammad Ghubar and an Indian historian endorsed Habibi's view point. Ghubar writes: "Ahmad Shah Durrani had dispatched two of his close aides--- Meh-rabuddin and Abdul Karim Barakzai--- to Makkah to build Hajji Khana, a building for Afghan pilgrims."

Akhonzada said the building was sold by Mohammad Siddique Chakari, then minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs during the government Ustad Rabbani.

But Dai-ul-Haq Abid, deputy minister Hajj and Religious Affairs, rejected selling out Rabat-e-Afghani by Chakari. He said the land buying and selling agreement took place by court in Saudi Arabia and individuals were not authorized to ink such a big deal.

A permanent Afghan consulate is existed in Makka, he said, adding negotiations in this regard were underway with Saudi officials.

The president, hajj and foreign affairs ministers had been working on this issue, he said, adding that the case was in hands of lawyer to convince the Saudi Arabia government to either allocate a piece of land in the vicinity of holy city or pay the amount back.

According to Abidi, currently there is no specific residential facility for Afghan pilgrims in Makka and they had to get residential facility on rent. (Pajhwok)

(9) MPs Concerned...

He said the HIA's decision was a result of its enmity with the Taliban, but it could create more troubles for the people.

His colleague from Kunduz province, Abdul Wadud Paiman, said no one should play with Islamic rules.

He explained the Afghan people had no links with the IS supreme leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who he said was the enemy of all Islamic faiths.

He said currently most HIA members worked in the government and they should be consulted on such decisions.

Paiman also said the HIA's support for the IS would empower the militant group.

His colleague from Kapisa Mirdad Khan Najrabi said any group trying to create problems for the government would be opposed by the Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(10) 22 Companies...

barred from taking part in any bidding process.

Yama Yari said the decision was taken after a special committee evaluated the companies' documents.

Decision about the fate of the companies would be taken after further assessment, Yari added. If the companies could not prove innocence they would be blacklisted from one to five years and if their crime was heavy they would be introduced to Attorney General Office (AGO).

Sayed Mahmood Sadaat, procurement head of "24" construction company, said: "Our company is not small to present fake documents. This is a conspiracy against us by the NPC and other government officials."

The NPC was formed in February and has been tasked to evaluate the government contracts.

Yama Yari said more than 300 contracts have so far been evaluated by the commission, out of which 175 have been approved, saving eight billion afghanis.

In addition, the NPC has also worked on amendment of procurement law, providing policies, and plans for creation of a national procurement institute. (Pajhwok)

(11) US to Provide...

He said three brigades of armed forces in Kabul, Kandahar, and the Shindand district of Herat had been equipped with helicopter gunships and cargo aircrafts.

He said currently the air force's 777

brigade in Kabul has 40 helicopters and 35 of them were fully operational and the remaining five needed some repair.

Waziri added the Defence Ministry owned 28 C20 and four C130 aircrafts used for different operations. The MoD spokesman said currently 20 pilots of the Afghan National Army (ANA) were being trained in the US and they would join the air force till the end of this year.

He said troops had been directed to fully respond to any aggression from across the country's borders, a veiled reference to Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(12) Herat Ulama ...

is like a sheep apparently looking friendly and soft since but that state has inflicted heavy losses on Afghanistan."

Maulvi Mustaghni, another religious scholar, said: "Ulama should extend complete cooperation and support to security forces which are a sign of loyalty and sincerity to the motherland."

He further added the security forces sacrificed their lives and fought day and night to establish peace and security in the country therefore, the masses should appreciate their efforts which would raise their morale.

Abdul Wahid Aasami, director Hajj and religious affairs in Herat, requested all those involved in fight and war in Afghanistan to quit fighting and join peace process. (Pajhwok)

(13) Turkmen Tribesmen ...

did not pay attention to resolve their demanded they would expand the protest and would block the Aqina, Sher Khan and Hiratan ports in Faryab, Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Another protester Abdul Ghafar said Bay Murad Qoulmi was the only governor belonging to the tribe and now the government had decided to replace him with Lutfulah Azizi for Jawzjan.

Later, keeping in view the holy month of Ramazan, the protester reopened the highway for traffic after one hour. (Pajhwok)

(14) ALP Performance ...

young Afghans that have joined the ranks of the ALP. Salih Mohammad Salih questioned what could happen if the government became unable to pay the salaries all the officers expect. "They can become a headache to the country if what I said happens," he said. "I think the allocated budget for ALP should be spent for supporting the National Police and the Afghan Army."

The mixed feelings about the role the ALP has played around the country is further illustrated among the sentiments of independent security analysts. Salih Registani, a military affairs expert, says ALP officers can be broken down into two categories: those who have rolled up their sleeves to help the Afghan people, and then those who are bullies and abuse their authorities for personal gain.

"The logic behind the establishment of the ALP is based on a temporary need," Registani told TOLONews. "Whenever Afghanistan becomes stable and secure, the local police should be disarmed and its members should pursue a normal life. Therefore, it is possible that the forces will change into a challenge and a headache to the government and the country," he added.

According to Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman Sediq Seddiqi, a new mechanism will eventually be adopted to manage ALP activities around the country. For now, he said, the ministry will enforce accountability measures.

"The ministry has brought seismic changes in the authorities of ALP forces aimed at increasing efficacy and overcoming their problems," Seddiqi said.

The ALP was established five years back in a bid to better ensure security in remote parts of the country. There are 30,000 ALP forces serving in several parts of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(15) Logar Edu ...

and other issues were not resolved. Mohammad Rahim, Baraki Barak district chief, said most of the teachers were inefficient and inexperienced or merely grade 12th graduates. "The schools are opened but there is poor education. There is quantity but there is no quality education," he rued.

Abdullah, a student of Kalangar High School, said: "Mostly teachers remain absent even they don't teach if they come to schools. We have shortage of books therefore the students don't often attend schools."

Mohammad Akbar Stanakzai, director education, called all these as baseless allegations. "Education directorate follows rules and regulations and neither education department nor I am involved in any type of corruption."

Stanikzai said the provincial council members and other officials leveled baseless allegations and blamed the education department for their personal interests.

He offered to be open for investigations and asked members to visit and monitor all activities closely.

Logar has as many as 280 schools where hundreds of teachers teach but at least 12 girls' schools have been closed for last two weeks due to threats from militants. (Pajhwok)

(16) Clashes on, ...

Also last week, insurgents seized several areas of the district, but security forces on Friday announced the captured areas had been cleared of militants.

Shakrullah, a resident of the district, confirmed clashes were ongoing between security forces and militants. "Taliban fighters came closer to the district centre but security forces pushed them back," he added.

The security situation worsened in the district soon after the Taliban took control of the Dasht-i-Archi district and then marched on the Khwaja Ghar district. (Pajhwok)

(17) Most Ghazni...

the provincial council members, but they had been missing from the office. "We have many times visited the PC office but found no one there. Sometimes two or three members sit there, but we could not meet any," he complained.

Allah Dad recalled people had elected the PC members by risking their lives, but the public representatives had betrayed them and remained absent from office in an organized way.

Mohammad Ibrahim Amiri, deputy head of Waman group, said the PC members were engaged in their personal tasks and had no time to attend office.

He said people had voted the PC members in order their voice could reach government departments but their absenteeism had angered people who might not partake in future elections.

"The PC members receive their salaries and other benefits, but they do not perform their duty in a proper way," he added.

Lal Mohammad from Qara Bagh district said he had been visiting the PC office for the last few days to get attested his documents for obtaining the national identity card. "But I could not find any member to attest my papers."

Residents asked the Independent Directorate of Local Governance to emphasize on the presence of provincial council members in their office and performing duty in a proper way.

Abdul Jami Jami, the provincial council deputy head, also confirmed some members had been busy doing their personal businesses and remained absent from the provincial council meetings.

He said the provincial council members had attended only two meetings in the last eight months. "The members have police guards for their security and they receive monthly salaries but they do not perform duty, which is against the rules and regulations and the law." Jame said the provincial council administrative delegation had started efforts at convincing the absent members to attend meetings so they could serve the local residents by solving their problems.

The Ghazni provincial council has 19 members, including four females. (Pajhwok)

(18) Farkhunda...

of Farkhunda in March this year and sent another eight defendants to jail for 16 years each.

Safiullah Mujaddedi, the primary court judge, awarded capital punishment to Zain-ul-Abidin son of Gulabuddin, Mohammad Yaqoob son of Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Sharif son of Sharafuddin, Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Shakoor on the charges of killing Farkhunda and burning her body.

But the appellant court in its last week ruling quashed the death sentence and changed the jail terms of rest of the accused to 20 years imprisonment.

Protesters, including workers of the Afghanistan Solidarity Party (ASP) gathered at the Farkhunda Avenue next to Shah-i-Du Shamshera Masjid and rejected the appellant court decision.

Sili Ghafari, spokeswoman of the ASP, termed the decision of appel-

lant court unfair because the session of the court was held secretly. (Pajhwok)

(19) Farah School ...

Mohammad Kabir Haqmal, the Ministry of Education (MoE) spokesman, said 12,000 construction projects, including school buildings and boundary walls, had been completed over the past decade.

He said currently 17,000 schools were functional in the country out of them 50 percent had buildings. (Pajhwok)

(20) Militants Block ...

deteriorated for the last few months and there had been clashes between security forces and militants, with civilians bearing the brunt, he added.

"Taliban have captured all areas and hundreds of foreign militants can be seen roaming the area, which has deteriorated the security situation."

The district could fall to Taliban if a military operation was not launched forthwith, the public representative feared.

Omar Zwak, the governor's spokesperson, said security forces had launched efforts to improve the situation in the district.

He said security forces had planned an extensive military operation in the area and would be implemented soon, but stopped short of going into details.

The governor and several other officials had visited Kajaki district and had assured local residents of addressing their concerns about the security situation. (Pajhwok)

(21) Taliban- IS...

gun battle, Taliban militants torched two houses in the area.

However, Mashraqiwal did not identify the name of the groups.

It is to be mentioned that clashes erupted between Daesh group and Taliban in parts of eastern provinces, which inflicted casualties on both sides.

No group has so far commented on the fight.

Separately, Mirwais, a resident of Pachiragam district, said that Daesh and Taliban exchanged heavy gun fire the entire day on Sunday but he had no details into casualties. (Pajhwok)

(22) Khost Residents...

"All of the telecommunication companies cheat people as none of them provide quality internet services," Khan said, adding that maximum speed of the internet reached up to 8kb/sec while a simple photo of mobile camera was approximately one MB to view.

"We don't know what to do with this internet speed. It would be better if they stop their services and do not cheat people," he remarked.

In addition, three other private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are also active in Khost, but residents say they cannot afford the internet services from the private ISPs.

Sher Mohammad, another dweller of Khost, said that only government and non-government organizations could use internet services of ISPs. (Pajhwok)

(23) Yemen Government...

sent to implement Resolution 2216 demanded real guarantees to ensure aid is delivered to those who need it," he said, noting that talks were under way to "lift the deliberate siege on Aden, Taiz, Lahj and Dhalea". (Reuters)

(24) Greek PM...

government of the Radical Left SYRIZA party of Tsipras and the Right-wing Independent Greeks co-signed a declaration with three opposition parties.

They jointly reiterated Greece's commitment to efforts to reach an "honest compromise" on the next package of fiscal adjustment policies and reforms with international lenders in return for the release of further vital aid to keep the country afloat and within the euro zone.

"The recent mandate of the Greek people was not for rift, but for further enhanced efforts to achieve a socially fair and economically viable agreement," said an official announcement issued by the Presidential mansion in Athens. (Xinhua)

(25) Chinese, Russian...

said that the China-Russia partnership does "not target any third party. It is a new model of state relationship featuring cooperation and reciprocity."

He said Xi, Putin and Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj will also meet during Xi's stay in Ufa to discuss trilateral cooperation. (Xinhua)