

### (1) Afghanistan ...

time to help train Afghan forces. He said other countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Sudan were in need of assistance but the international community preferred Afghanistan because of the countless sacrifices by its people and security forces in the war against terrorism.

The president called the most important success of the summit for Kabul the assurances of international community to help train Afghan forces through 2020.

Ghani said some people thought Afghan forces would not be able to maintain security after the withdrawal of international troops but the time showed that they were wrong and Afghan forces had the ability to defend the motherland.

The president said the war against terrorism was an international challenge having multiple dimensions. Ghani said the people of Afghanistan wanted peace in line with constitution.

About relations with Pakistan, the president said the world earlier doubted Kabul's sincerity in relations with Islamabad, but now the doubt had been removed.

The president made it clear that Afghanistan wanted good relations with Pakistan, but interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and support to groups involved in insurgency in Afghanistan by neighboring countries would increase the hatred of the people of Afghanistan towards them.

He asked Pakistan to cooperate with Afghanistan in the war against terrorism and not to differentiate between good and bad Taliban. (Pajhwok)

### (2) NATO...

find a negotiated peaceful solution. It also supports efforts to achieve reconciliation. One element in that process is the need for political dialogue and contact between Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as with other regional contacts the Afghan unity government is engaged. These political efforts have to be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led," he said.

He said high casualties among Afghans security and defense forces is a serious challenge and that the international community's continued support is aimed at strengthening the troops and building up their professional capacity. (Tolonews)

### (3) Qadir Vows ...

Kabul-Nangarhar road second lane and other issues in the province.

He promised to share all problems of Nangarhar with high officials in Kabul. Kunduzi thanked Qadir for his cooperation with the provincial government in various spheres.

The governor said people's cooperation and the central government's attention had made him confident that the insurgents, particularly the Islamic State militants, would be vanquished in Nangarhar.

He also informed about the deployment of fresh uprising forces in Kot and a number of other districts.

The governor said the security problem of the Kabul-Nangarhar road had been resolved to a great extent, but called high prices of private land in the way of the road project as a big problem.

He said the high rate of the land was likely to create challenges to the project and sought cooperation in this regard.

He said no influence would be accepted in implementation of the road's map and the project would be completed in a standard way. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Lawmakers...

government also promised to increase its participation in equipping Afghan forces by increasing revenue as per decision taken at the Chicago summit and will fully assume the responsibility of financial costs until 2024 (the transformation decade).

The Afghan leaders vowed to continue the process of reforms, banish corruption from government departments and to intensify accountability and economic growth.

Meshrano Jirga member Mohammad Rahim Husanyar told today's session: "Renewing pledges and committing financial assistance by NATO countries

give hope, but on the condition that Afghanistan will remain committed to rooting out corruption, fighting terrorism and mafias within the system and not to allow the foreign aid to go in waste."

Minority lawmaker Anar Kali Humaryar welcomed the cooperation pledged by NATO leaders with Afghanistan and said: "By using opportunities and available resources, the Afghan government should properly equip security forces in order they wipe out the country's enemies." But Senator Zalmi Zabuli, though welcoming the latest NATO pledges, said not step was taken to end the war in Afghanistan and with NATO's annual aid until 2020, Afghan forces would be used to reach American goals.

"The government leaders should have told NATO leaders that the Afghans neither need assistance nor they want war. NATO should assist the entire Afghanistan in order to end the war and bring lasting peace to the country." Senate's second deputy chairman Hasibullah Kalimzai said NATO's renewed pledges showed the alliance was committed to supporting Afghanistan politically and militarily. The pledges gave strength to political stability in Afghanistan and NATO would always stand by the Afghans, he said.

First deputy chairman Farhad Sakhi, who presided over the session, said: "As a representative of the Afghan people, the Meshrano Jirga thanks NATO. The Warsaw summit was a clear message to the enemies of Afghanistan that the western military alliance will always stand by the Afghan people." (Pajhwok)

### (5) UNESCO Vows ...

next generations.

"The world needs the UNESCO more than ever as the wars in many places around the globe destroy historical, natural and cultural values," the premier said in a video message.

The participants emphasized the importance of promoting the creation of art objects around the world while paying respect to ethnic and cultural diversities as an answer to terrorism and wars. At its 11-day session, the World Heritage Committee will discuss ways to prevent terrorists from smuggling and destroying cultural relics around the globe. Since 2014, the Islamic State group has been deliberately destroying cultural heritages in Syria, Iraq and Libya, targeting various places of worship and historical artifacts. (Xinhua)

### (6) Roshan's M-Paisa ...

of M-Paisa is to pay salaries all over the country in a safe, transparent and more efficient way. Today, there are over 40 companies and organizations that are using M-Paisa to pay employee salaries nationwide. M-Paisa currently has over 100,000 active subscribers.

"When we launched M-Paisa, we wanted to bring in the latest technology to foster financial inclusion and to provide Afghans with a solution that supports economic development. We are now able to take that to the next level and bring access to financial services and banking," said Karim Khoja, CEO of Roshan. "M-Paisa provides the most transparent and effective payment options for businesses, organizations and government agencies to disburse compensation to recipients. We are planning to further expand and grow M-Paisa through similar partnerships."

Since its launch, M-Paisa has introduced many innovative features to help companies, government agencies and the Afghan public, conduct their financial transactions more efficiently. One of the recent features is electricity bill payment, allowing M-Paisa customers to save time and money and have the ability to pay their electricity bill from the convenience of their mobile phones and security of their homes.

Promote is USAID's largest women's empowerment program globally that advances opportunities for Afghan women who can become political, private sector, and civil society leaders. Building upon existing and previous programs for women and girls, Promote is a five-year program targeting the education, promotion, and training of a new

generation of Afghan women, aged 18-30. With the goal of increasing women's contributions to Afghanistan's development, Promote strengthens women's rights groups, boosts female participation in the economy, increases the number of women in decision making positions within the Afghan government, and helps women gain business and management skills.

With more than \$17 billion spent on development programs in Afghanistan since 2002, USAID provides the largest bilateral civilian assistance program to Afghanistan. USAID partners with the government and people of Afghanistan to ensure economic growth led by the country's private sector, establish a democratic and capable state governed by the rule of law, and provide basic health and education services for all Afghans. (KP)

### (7) Russia-NATO...

any changes in the agenda would be adopted in the coming days, the NATO official said the three topics outlined by Stoltenberg would remain as they are. The official added Stoltenberg planned to update Russia of the decisions taken at the Warsaw Summit last week. (Sputnik)

### (8) Election Reform...

be removed before the expiration of their tenures in 2019. Ahmad Yousaf Nuristani, head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), stood down some months back.

Abdullah termed the Warsaw summit a success for Afghanistan, saying NATO countries had hailed Afghanistan's efforts to counter terrorism, eliminate corruption and reforms the election system. (Pajhwok)

### (9) U.S Official ...

years," Nicholson said. Nicholson said the numbers were somewhat expected with Afghan security forces beginning to take the lead in armed conflicts. Afghan forces have shown "tactical success" on the battlefield against the Taliban, despite the heavy losses, he said. "We are very concerned about Afghan casualties," Nicholson said.

He praised the Afghan forces for their resiliency. "This army did not break...there has not been any significant Taliban battlefield success this year," he added.

Nicholson said the increased casualties show the Afghan Army's "commitment to the fight." The news comes after U.S President Barack Obama announced on Wednesday that he would slow down the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. Instead of reducing the force down to 5,500, Obama will keep nearly 8,400 in Afghanistan when he leaves office in January. (Tolonews)

### (10) Oil Enterprise...

and that management was attempting to reform the enterprise into a modern organization.

Tamim said because of inconsistencies in a number of oil contracts with government-owned oil stations, those contracts will be thoroughly reviewed.

Officials in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) said there is a need for reforms in the organization to bring about transparency in the financial affairs of the Oil Enterprise.

"The plan has been made clear to them. They have been told they should rectify the situation in the organization. Details of their report on the legal persona of the company and its economic dimensions will be studied," said Ajmal Abdul Rahimzai, MoF spokesman. (Tolonews)

### (11) Israel Joins...

arity and friendship, according to organisers, and is the largest international choir competition in the world.

The festival is organised by Interkultur and invites amateur choirs from around the world to take part.

"Everyone that travelled here to see us today at the beautiful Black Sea Coast to sing with us together, to celebrate a good party with choir music together, a warm welcome to Sochi," said World Choir Games President Gunter Titsch at the recent grand opening ceremony, staged in the Olympic Village from the 2014 winter games hosted by Russia.

Among the sixty international judges that will evaluate the performances in 29 different categories are some of the world's most popular choral experts, according to organisers.

Participating countries include Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, Spain and Sweden.

The elaborate opening ceremony saw participants showcase their vocal talent in a celebratory song and dance spectacle. Supporters and fans joined with Mexican waves.

Gunter Titsch, Russia's deputy minister of culture Alexander Zhuravskiy and the mayor of Sochi Anatoly Pakhomov rang the World Choir Games Peace Bell together five times to mark the opening of the games, with each ring representing the world's continents.

The World Choir Games draws to an end on July 16th. (Agencies)

### (12) Tajikistan's ...

the Tajik government's decision to restart diplomatic activities in the province and assured all possible support to Tajik diplomats. He acknowledged the consulate had helped the people in getting visas for the neighboring country for medical treatment and other purposes. The decision would help improve economic links between the two countries, he hoped. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Karzai Urges ...

you will not win this war because it isn't here," Karzai said. "We are victims."

The remarks by Karzai comes President Ghani appeared in a press conference by concluding a visit to Poland where he participated in Warsaw summit.

Ghani also called on Pakistan to take actions against the militant groups based in the country and acting against Afghanistan.

"We don't expect Pakistan to bring us peace. We want Pakistan to banish those groups from its territory that fight against Afghanistan," Ghani said.

President Ghani further added that "war is imposed on us, and we don't want war. We want a durable peace. All our neighbouring countries should respect our sovereignty."

The Afghan officials have long been raising concerns regarding the presence of the Taliban group and Haqqani network leadership councils in Pakistan.

They are saying that the two groups are having leadership councils based in both Quetta and Peshawar cities of Pakistan from where they launch attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

### (14) 3-Member ...

notorious gang leader involved in targeted killings, landmine blasts and other anti-government activities had recently been detained by police in the province. (Pajhwok)

### (15) New Syrian...

new government is the sixth to be formed under the presidency of al-Assad, who succeeded his father in ruling the country in 2000.

The last government was formed in August 2014, following the re-election of al-Assad. (Xinhua)

### (16) Carter Arrives ...

and IS militants.

The IS took control of country's northern city of Mosul and later seized territories in Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni provinces.

A U.S.-led international coalition has been conducting air raids against IS targets in both Iraq and Syria. (Xinhua)

### (17) French FM ...

Ayrault will also hold talks with Mireille Girard, the Lebanese representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Ayrault's visit comes weeks after French officials held talks in Paris with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir over a political settlement in Lebanon. (Xinhua)

### (18) Russia Slams...

have been "completely exaggerated" attempts at demonizing Russia in order to justify the steps taken toward a military buildup in Europe and divert attention from NATO's "destructive role" in provoking crises and instability across the world,

she said.

"We expect NATO's detailed explanations regarding its enforcement in all directions during the upcoming Russia-NATO Council's meeting at the level of permanent representatives due July 13," the spokeswoman said. (Xinhua)

### (19) IS Territory...

the Islamic State's caliphate shrinks and it becomes increasingly clear that its governance project is failing, the group is re-prioritizing insurgency," he said.

"As a result, we unfortunately expect an increase in mass casualty attacks and sabotage of economic infrastructure, across Iraq and Syria, and further afield, including Europe," he added.

The group's revenue also dropped from 80 million U.S. dollars a month in mid-2015 to 56 million dollars a month by March 2016, according to IHS.

"This figure has probably continued to decrease since March by at least another 35 percent," said another senior analyst at IHS Ludovico Carlino.

IHS is headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, the United States, and employs about 9,000 people in 33 countries around the world. (Xinhua)

### (20) DPRK Threatens...

their ties to the DPRK's alleged abuse.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry on Thursday urged the United States to withdraw the newly announced sanctions, saying they were an "open declaration of war against the DPRK."

The ministry also warned that the DPRK will eventually cut off all channels of diplomatic contact with the United States if the latter fails to withdraw the sanctions. (Xinhua)

### (21) Egypt Endeavors...

"the visit attests to the deepening of relations between Israel and Egypt."

Last time the two parties held negotiations was over two years ago. Violence between Israelis and Palestinians has been on the rise in recent months with casualties on both sides. (Xinhua)

### (22) Obama Stresses...

same ideals, among them, freedom and respect for the rule of law," a sentiment he would later repeat following his reunion with Prime Minister Rajoy at his official residence, the Palacio de la Moncloa.

Following discussions lasting around an hour, Obama and Rajoy made declarations which were beamed to the press room in Moncloa via a TV screen.

The pair said they had discussed Brexit and Obama expressed hope that, "negotiations can be managed in a way that does not have adverse effects for Europe and the UK." (Xinhua)

### (23) 40 Abu Sayyaf ...

military initially reported the killing of nine Abu Sayyaf men and wounding of 13 others in the Sulu skirmishes.

Tan said the military casualties remained at one soldier killed and six others wounded, all from the Sulu firefight.

Tan said the number of Abu Sayyaf casualties increased Sunday to 40 dead and 25 wounded based on reports gathered -- 18 dead and nine wounded in the Basilan fighting; and 22 killed and 16 wounded in the Sulu fighting. (Xinhua)

## Turkmenistan Develops International Cooperation in the Chemical Industry

ASHGABAT - The interest in cooperation with Turkmenistan as a promising business partner voiced on July 8, 2016, top managers of Japanese companies «Mitsui Engineering Shipbuilding» and «Sojitz Corporation» - Shinsuke Nippo and Toshiharu Yoshimura, as well as chairman of the Turkish «Ronesans Holding» Erman Ilicak.

During the opening ceremony in Lebap new production complex for the production of 500 thousand tons of sulfuric acid, the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had a meeting with businessmen from Japan and Turkey. As is known, the project of construction of the complex for the

production of sulfuric acid came into the package of agreements and contracts signed during the September 2013 official visit of the Turkmen Leader to Japan. According to the relevant Decree of the design and construction of the object was carried out by a consortium of companies - «Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd» (Japan) and «Ronesans Türkmen İnşaat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.» (Turkey) c participation of local construction companies. (Agencies)

## Ancient Persian Maps Show South China Sea Islands Part of Chinese Territory

KUNMING - A series of ancient maps drawn by Persian and Arabian geographers from the ninth to 17th centuries show the disputed waters and islands of the South China Sea have been Chinese territory since ancient time, according to a joint study by Chinese and Iranian researchers. "These maps are evidence from a third party, confirming China's sovereignty over the islands and the related sea area," said Yao Jide, research team leader from Yunnan University.

Yao, whose area of expertise spans China-Iran relations, the ancient Silk Road and Iran, was a former visiting scholar at the University of Tehran, Iran, and also served as head of the university's Confucius School.

This particular study started in March 2012, he explained, when history professor M.B. Vosoughi from the University of Tehran visited Beijing and talked about the ancient maps.

"I was told that these areas were marked with 'China Sea' and 'China Islands' in Persian or Arabic," Yao recalled.

Vosoughi collected more than 50 ancient maps, which referenced Chinese territory, and had these maps translated into Chinese. The maps span around 800 years, when Persian and Arabian navigators sailed the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, the South China Sea and finally the south-east coast of China.

According to Yao, four of the maps were annotated in Arabic, while the others were in Persian. The maps, in spherical, grid or plane patterns, were designed "the south at the top, the north at the bottom, the east on the left and the west on the right," opposite to those in modern times.

"Although the ancient maps are not as precise as our modern maps, we can still clearly see that on some of the maps, the waters between the West Pacific and the Indian Ocean are annotated with 'China Sea,' 'China Islands' and 'China Gulf,'" he said, adding such names have demonstrated China's sovereignty over the area. (Xinhua)

## Italian Expert Urges Beijing, Manila to Open New Dialogues over S. China Sea

ROME - An Italian expert has urged concerted efforts from China and the Philippines to soothe regional tensions by initiating a new phase of dialogues over their South China Sea disputes.

The maritime disputes between China and the Philippines, if not properly handled, would be detrimental to the region that is "going through a fast economic and social development," Matteo Bressan, emerging challenges analyst with the NATO Defense College Foundation, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

He urged Manila to deal with the issue "in an appropriate way, so as to guarantee regional growth and prosperity and promote synergies and cooperation rather than more confrontation" among countries in the region.

Bressan suggested Beijing and Manila begin a new phase of dialogues through confidence-building measures in the political, economic and cultural fields, which are conducive to the improvement of the climate between the two sides.

The South China Sea dispute between Beijing and Manila was unilaterally brought to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague by the administration of former Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III in 2013. (Xinhua)