

### (1) BRICS Voices...

secure, united, stable, prosperous and inclusive country that exists in harmony with its neighbors, a joint statement of the summit reads.

They expressed their concern over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan particularly the increase in the number and intensity of terrorist-related attacks on the Afghan National Security Forces, the Government and civilians, the statement said.

They looked forward to the Presidential elections scheduled for September 2019, the statement added.

The ministers agreed to further deepen BRICS three-pillar-driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges. The ministers reaffirmed the commitment to upholding and respecting international law and to an international system in which sovereign States cooperate to maintain peace and security, advance sustainable development and ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. (Tolo news)

### (2) Lack of Agenda ...

lower house as 'incapable and unable' to furnish an agenda.

But Deputy Speaker Amir Khan Yar criticized the commissions for what he said 'non-cooperative attitude' and said agenda items were supposed to be announced by commissions and lawmakers and the administrative panel prepared it.

He said members of commissions and lawmakers did not provide a specific item to them for preparation of agenda. (Pajhwok)

### (3) UN Hails Afghan ...

Electoral Complaints Commission are both women, she said.

It is vital for the legitimacy of the political system that all stakeholders, including the Government, political leaders, candidates and parties, contribute to an enabling environment for a credible electoral process.

"As we witnessed again yesterday, conflict continues in Afghanistan. In 2018, the country suffered the highest number of civilian casualties since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) began recording figures in 2009," the deputy secretary general said.

"In the first five months of this year, more than 100,000 people were displaced by conflict, and we know displacement increases the risk of gender-based violence. In areas where the Taliban have reclaimed control, there are reports of honour killings, stoning and other attacks on women's rights. Peace, security and economic stability are urgently needed."

The UN deputy secretary-general said: "During our visit, we heard a strong call from Afghan women for peace - but for peace that safeguards their hard-won rights and does not backtrack on what has been achieved. All the women we spoke to wanted an inclusive peace centered on women, as well as victims and survivors."

"In Bamiyan, we saw the incredible demining work that women are doing with the support of the United Nations, risking their lives alongside men to bring safety to their communities," she said. Inclusivity was the only way to make durable peace, she explained. One woman told the UN team: "It's an illusion if you think that you are going to give away people's rights, and then have any real peace."

Afghanistan has made great progress for women since the fall of the Taliban. More than 3 million children are back in school, with 9 out of 11 million Afghan children now enrolled.

Investments in reducing maternal mortality were saving thousands of lives, she said. Improved infrastructure and power supplies are connecting remote areas to national economic opportunities including exports.

"We saw this in Bamiyan, where a provincial hospital is dispensing free world-class care to all people of Bamiyan Province and the neighbouring areas. This is possible thanks to an innovative partnership between the Government and the Aga Khan Foundation."

She acknowledged Afghanistan had done more to invest in women's leadership than many countries with greater means. Women, especially young women, are rising to reclaim their rightful place in all areas of society.

Many were quite simply inspiring, she remarked. One entrepreneur, who has created hundreds of jobs for women in a factory and a market, told her: "When we empower a woman, we empower a generation."

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development held great promise for the lives of Afghans across the country, the top

UN official believed.

Twenty-four UN agencies are working in strategic partnership with the government in Kabul on issues from food security and clean water to the rule of law, often risking their lives.

The reform of the UN development system is enabling our Country Team to work in a more integrated way than ever before, responding to the President's call to be more effective, efficient and responsive to country-led priorities. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 would be essential to ensure that women have access to education, health care and decent work, and that women are represented in all areas of society and in all political and economic decision-making processes.

Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions will also be essential to hold free, fair and credible elections, to build trust in State institutions and to facilitate reconciliation and the reintegration of former combatants after the signing of any peace agreement.

In the short term, 6.3 million people need urgent humanitarian aid across Afghanistan and halfway through 2019, the Humanitarian Response plan is just 27 per cent funded.

"We must increase that level urgently, to provide immediate support and protection to displaced people and those in greatest need," she continued.

Afghanistan was at an important crossroads, she said, hailing the government's commitment to peace and upholding democratic rights of all Afghans.

Afghan women were currently playing a central role in creating peaceful, inclusive communities with opportunities for women and men, girls and boys, people with disabilities, victims and survivors of the conflict, Amina Mohamed said.

She added the Afghan women needed and deserved the support of the entire United Nations system and the international community to invest in building on those gains, while sustaining peace.

The voices of women, especially the victims, must be heard at the table in the peace process and beyond, the deputy secretary-general stressed.

"I am pleased to say that we are considering a significant investment in preventing and ending violence against women in Afghanistan through our joint Spotlight Initiative with the European Union."

"During our visit, my colleagues and I saw enormous grounds for hope. We left with great optimism for a better future for Afghanistan and its impressive people."

"I urge this council to do all in its power to support all Afghans in realising their hopes and aspirations for lasting peace, stability and prosperity." (Pajhwok)

### (4) Ghani Dissolves ...

and that discussions were focused on the roadmap for peace and the negotiating team.

Sediqqi added that the Afghan government is close to forming a negotiating team. (Tolo news)

### (5) EU Pledges ...

of this phase in six-month time.

"Working on trade in Afghanistan is working on peace. We are supporting the Afghan government's trade agenda through the Advancing Afghan Trade," said the head of the EU Delegation in Afghanistan

Pierre Mayaudon added the EU prioritised economic integration and connectivity as a key to achieving peace.

"I announce the continuation of the EU's support for years 2020-24 through phase 2 of the project, funded by €12 million," Mayaudon added.

The 'Advancing Afghan Trade' project supports MoIC's objective to reach \$1.0bn of exports this year, said Ajmal Ahmady, minister of industry & commerce.

In the coming months, until the end of phase 1, the project will further support bilateral dialogue with trading partners from the region.

It will also help coach SMEs on exports procedures, launch the Afghanistan trade portal, see the Afghanistan National Trade Policy officially endorsed by the government and finalise preparations and design for phase 2 due to start in the 1st quarter of 2020. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Key Role Promised...

played by Afghan women in society, highlight the importance of consolidating the gains achieved in the past 18 years and promote meaningful participation of women in line with the Security Council Resolution 1325.

"We hope that future delegation visits could also be organised as one of the many means for the Group to achieve its goal and look forward to further discussing this and many other opportunities in the future," the envoy said.

Naeemi reiterated the government's commitment to the holding of transpar-

ent, free and secure elections on September 28.

"Holding these elections will assert the will of the people of Afghanistan on reaffirming our commitment to democracy and rule of law in our country."

"Further, a joint security plan has been finalised for presidential elections to be held in a secure environment," he added.

The diplomat said the Afghan security forces had kept terrorist groups from making any major gains in the country and operating with great confidence and efficiency.

"This effort will continue with a priority in defence of our people and our country's territorial integrity in parallel to the ongoing peace negotiations."

"We continue our call for the Taliban to honor their commitment to peace through deeds and not words, particularly in the aftermath of yesterday's deadly blasts in Kabul which once again claimed the lives of innocent civilians," he said.

"We maintain our belief that only a dual track approach of pressure and incentives can ensure a conducive environment for a successful comprehensive agreement with the Taliban," he said.

Despite the challenges that remain, the last 18 years have seen the emergence of a new democratic and developing Afghanistan.

"Reforms in the security and civil sectors, as well as in governance, have allowed us to continue with strong determination the implementation of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and the National Priority Programmes (NPPs) and to follow a steady path towards stability and self-reliance through fighting corruption, the empowerment of youth and women, the promotion of economic growth and the development of stronger and more efficient public institutions."

Naeemi said these efforts, coupled with tangible regional steps within the Afghan-led platforms, RECCA and Heart of Asia, had allowed the country to emerge as a catalyst for economic and regional cooperation.

Naeemi reiterated Afghanistan's support for the work of the United Nations in Afghanistan. "We hope this visit will provide Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed and her delegation with valuable perspectives and inputs on the importance of a thorough renewal of the mandate of UNAMA."

"We look forward to discussions on this matter in September in the hope that the UN mission will be renewed for a year, at the minimum, and that the renewal document will retain core priority issues for Afghanistan and incorporate new developments including upcoming elections and the peace process," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Govt-Taliban ...

stakeholders on forming a 15-member negotiating team who will lead the peace talks with the Taliban, he said.

Rahimi adds that names of the members of the negotiating team have been listed and the list is about to be finalized. Members of the team will include some delegates of the recent Doha meeting and also people with peace and negotiations background, he said, adding that members of the team will represent different layers of society including religious scholars, women and civil society members.

The State Minister for Peace Affairs said they are preparing for the trip of the negotiating team members.

Rahimi called on the warring sides to reduce level of violence ahead of the direct talks. (Tolo news)

### (8) Experts Discuss ...

forward options to accelerate achievement of the goals.

The initiative is part of broader vision spearheaded by UNDP's new Resident Representative Abdallah Al Dardari. Since taking office in May 2019, Dardari has made it his top priority to transform the way development programmes have been carried out in Afghanistan.

This is especially important at this juncture, as there is genuine sense of hope that peace might be achievable in the near future.

"If peace does come, we must support Afghanistan to transition from an economy that struggles in time of war, to an economy that prospers in time of peace," says Dardari.

"The expert discussions will help us identify priorities and design integrated programmes that are sustainable and viable."

This is the first time that such a group of experts and academics with focus on macroeconomics have come to Afghanistan to kick-start conversation on transforming its war economy to a peace economy and change the approach to development from isolated projects to integrated programmes. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Official Accused of ...

receives his credential as the new Afghan envoy to New Delhi.

"There are dozens and hundreds of cases which might have political motives," said Nasir Timori, a researcher at Integrity Watch Afghanistan.

Following his appointment, the Attorney General's Office said Tamim has three corruption which are under investigations.

"A few cases from this person [Tamim] are under investigation at the Attorney General's Office," a spokesman for the Attorney General's Office, Jamshid Rasuli, said.

Such appointments are often criticized by presidential candidates who say they are made for campaign purposes.

The Presidential Palace and Walid Tamim refused to talk in this regard.

Tamim was a close aide to Ghani in the 2014 presidential elections. (Tolo news)

### (10) 80pc of Kandahar ...

Around 5,000 people are working in the factories in Kandahar, which receives 20MW electricity from Kajaki dam. But it is not enough. Additionally, the province is supplied receives 15MW of power on a daily basis from one solar power plant. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Two Suspects ...

'crimes', Jilani added.

Herat residents welcomed the move and said that working against Afghanistan's interests should be counted as a crime.

"Those who spy and provide government's confidential information to other countries should be treated the same as those who are fighting against our security forces on the battlefields," said Najib Marzban, a Herat resident.

"Such people should be punished in order to be a lesson for others," said Mirwais Omari, a Herat resident. (Tolo news)

### (12) Expert Says...

Once their Chinese buyers sign long-term purchase agreements with partners in other countries, U.S. farmers will suffer huge losses, according to Gu.

The biggest risks facing businesses of the two countries also come from constant uncertainty not only in how much tariffs the United States intends to levy on Chinese imports, but also in the caprices of Washington's trade policy, Gu noted.

Yet he praised a recent open letter by former U.S. politicians and well-known scholars, saying that more rational voices are needed to shed light on the U.S.-China trade tensions for the mass public.

A group of 100 U.S. academics, diplomats, military and business experts signed an open letter published earlier this month, saying that branding China an enemy was counterproductive and calling on Washington to reexamine its policy toward China.

"Always blaming China can do nothing to help resolve trade problems. With the letter published, more objective and rational voices were heard by the public," said Gu. "You've got to present different and inclusive voices, so that Americans can judge by themselves."

He added that such opinions would also prompt more people to reconsider how to view the frictions and controversies between the two countries.

Moreover, the business insider also expressed his confidence in China-U.S. relations in the long run, given the historical development of bilateral ties over the past 40 years. (Xinhua)

### (13) Washington...

region, losing one of them in an interception by the Indian Air Force. If true, it may have violated US arms export terms. Pakistan denied deploying F-16s for the mission and said it didn't lose any aircraft.

Also on Friday, Washington announced its plans to sell spare parts and equipment for the Indian fleet of Boeing C-17 military transport planes. The contract would require 23 contractor representatives, the agency said.

The DSCA explained that the sales "will not alter the basic military balance in the region." The approvals come days after a visit to the US by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, and a month after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a high-level visit to India. (RT)

### (14) Brexit Is A...

with EU partners but only if the backstop clause was removed from the current divorce agreement struck by May.

The backstop seeks to ensure a free-flowing post-Brexit border between British Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state, in all eventualities.

"The approach of the UK government is not going to be disengaged or aloof or waiting for them to come to us, we are going to try to solve this problem," he said.

"We can't do it as long as that anti-dem-

ocratic backstop, that backstop that seeks to divide our country, divide the UK, remains in place. We need to get it out and then we can make progress."

- 'Absolutely' rules out election -

The new leader earlier tried to dampen speculation he could call an early election.

The former mayor of London, who only took charge on Wednesday, has promised to take Britain out of the EU by the latest deadline of October 31 -- deal or no deal.

But he has focused on domestic priorities in his first few days in office, including a pledge on Friday to reverse drastic cuts to the police force made under May. (AFP)

### (15) Trump Says...

have reached anywhere near the United States, the missiles' range would easily include ally South Korea and large US military bases near the border.

"My relationship with very Kim is very good. We'll see what happens," Trump said.

Trump has used three dramatic meetings with Kim to try and upend years of diplomatic failure in getting North Korea to abandon a nuclear weapons program.

Kim has so far given up none of his arsenal. (AFP)

### (16) Nazi Salute...

protests last year is now back in focus as voters in three states go to the polls this fall. In two of them - Saxony and Brandenburg - Merkel's Christian Democrats and their junior partner, the Social Democrats, may lose for the first time since reunification in 1990 - to the upstart Alternative for Germany, or AfD. That could not only implode her fragile coalition but upend a political landscape dominated by two parties since World War II.

"That is the writing on the wall for the traditional parties," Josef Janning, head of the Berlin office of the European Council on Foreign Relations, said in an interview. "This will shake up the system."

Merkel's coalition is already hanging by a thread, with many Social Democrats saying they need to abandon government and return to their roots to stem the hemorrhaging of support in opinion polls. Disagreements, whether on defense or climate, surface daily within the coalition and a poor showing in the East could give the SPD the final push to jump ship.

Ground Zero

Merkel and her Christian Democratic Union, or CDU, have also suffered massive losses in the former East, where the trained physicist grew up and where the right-wing AfD party now has found fertile territory with an ideology that overlaps that of Pegida.

Martin Modschiedler, a CDU lawmaker seeking re-election to Saxony's state legislature, says the anti-immigration rage that has greeted Merkel caps a three-decade feeling of displacement since the collapse of East Germany. He drew a parallel with the social convulsions of the late 1960's in the West - and said much of the frustration was aimed at Merkel as steward of the political system. (Bloomberg)

### (17) Committee on...

town of Sur Baher, which was the first to take place in areas classified as area (A), which is under Palestinian control as per the 1993 interim Oslo accords. (Xinhua)

### (18) 'Total Lie...

said, adding that Russia and Serbia have a bilateral agreement on military and technical cooperation, which covers arms exports.

Earlier, Romanian news agency Mediafax claimed that a ship carrying 30 Russian T-72 tanks and 20 APCs was blocked in Romania. Later, citing the Romanian Foreign Ministry, AP reported that Bucharest refused to issue a transit visa for the shipment because of sanctions imposed by the EU against Russia in 2014 over its alleged role in the crisis in Ukraine.

No statement on the subject could be found on the ministry's website at the time of writing. (RT)

### (19) Hong Kong...

that the police forces feared a "possible deterioration of the situation."

"Police appeal to members of the public to stay calm and leave the area as soon as possible as a chaotic scene may ensue within a short period of time," the earlier statement read.

The latest protest follows the massive demonstrations that began in Hong Kong last month against an extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to face trial in mainland China.

Critics warned that the bill would compromise the precious rights of Hong Kong and break the agreement that guaranteed the city's autonomy from the Chinese communist government. (Fox News)