

(1) China Calls for...

there are both potential dawn for peace and build-up of risks and challenges. Pursuing peace requires more courage than stoking conflict. We appeal to all parties in Afghanistan to set store by the greater good of the country and the people, seize the major opportunity for political reconciliation, settle differences through dialogue, beat swords into ploughshares, and join hands to push open the door to peace. We call on the international community give firm support to the "Afghan lead, Afghan owned" peace and reconciliation process, play a constructive role from the sideline and build a momentum for dialogue.

There is no vacuum in Afghanistan needs to be filled, because the land belongs to the people of Afghanistan. This year marks the centenary of Afghanistan's independence. We ardently hope that this country, after suffering so much, will have a rebirth, take destiny into its own hands from now on, and enjoy genuine independence and lasting peace. Afghanistan should not again become an arena of great-power rivalry, nor should it be subject to incessant conflict and mayhem. As Afghanistan's neighbor and friend, China will respect its people's wish and needs, continue to do its best for reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan. (Monitoring Desk)

(2) Afghan Women's...

The statistics of the authority show that women made 22 percent of government employees in 2017 while it has increased to 27.33 percent this year.

Capacity building, learning new skills, government's support, easing the appointment process and organizing written tests for vacant government posts helped women to play a greater role in civil service departments, he said.

"This year has been the best year for women in terms of being recruited in government's institutions," Naderi said. "In the past years, women had prominent role in sacred profession of teaching and health services, but today, fortunately, the opportunity has been provided for them to work in different fields and different levels of management."

Naderi said he is hopeful that women will make 50 percent of Afghanistan's civil service employees in the future.

Naderi said there are possibilities that women's role will decrease if they are not supported.

"We can see the threat of a rollback in different areas including in politics, in the talks for ending the war or in social and cultural obstacles and limitations which are facing women," Naderi said.

This comes as a number of women rights activists have expressed their concerns over a possible ignorance to women's rights and achievements in the peace talks with the Taliban. The activists have said that their rights and past achievements should not be sacrificed in the talks with the Taliban.

Afghan women must have a say in the future of their country, Amnesty International said today, as the human rights organization unveiled a mural in Kabul celebrating their tremendous achievements.

"Afghan women are famous for their resolve and we are celebrating that this Women's Day. Despite more than 17 years of conflict, they have made remarkable strides. They are lawyers, doctors, judges, teachers, engineers, athletes, activists, politicians, journalists, bureaucrats, run their own businesses and are in the ranks of the military and police," said Samira Hamidi, South Asia campaigner at Amnesty International. According to the Amnesty Interna-

tional, in 2009, Afghanistan passed the law on Elimination of Violence Against Women, after a hard-fought struggle led by women human rights defenders. The law, which fell into disuse after parts of it were absorbed into Afghanistan's revised Penal Code, was reaffirmed by President Ashraf Ghani in March 2018. (Tolo news)

(3) U.S. Embassy...

and continue with the next generation of women and girls. The women gathered here today remind us of the important progress Afghan women have made. The U.S. and the international community will continue to support Afghan women and their achievements."

The participants, who came from a variety of sectors of Afghan society, had the opportunity to forge new relationships and discuss ways women can work together for to work for change in Afghanistan.

The United States recognizes the leadership, contributions, and courage of women who have made sacrifices in the past, over many generations, to make the world a more safe, prosperous, and peaceful place. We continue to support a peace process that aims to address the legitimate concerns of the Afghan people, sustains the social and economic gains of the last 17 years, and ensures a better future for all Afghans. (PR)

(4) Afghanistan...

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(Tolo news)

(5) Taliban, US...

issues which did not belong to US had not yet come under discussion. He rejected discussion on other issues saying some people may have no information regarding what was going on.

The fifth round of talks between the Taliban and US delegation was underway in Doha from the past one week. (Pajhwok)

(6) Karzai Expects...

"The talks should be inclusive," Karzai said. "Afghans from all walks of life with any type of thinking and affiliation should be present there. This will help us to reach to a lasting peace which is the main aspiration of our people."

"Dear brothers and sisters, you noticed that there was no dispute between us and our Taliban brothers after we sat with them (in Moscow late in February)," Karzai reiterated. Some other politicians, meanwhile, said it will be better to seal a peace deal before moving to the presidential elections.

"We believe that a sustainable peace prevails when peace is secured within the system of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," said presidential hopeful Mohammad Haneef Atmar. (Tolo news)

(7) Beauty Should...

She said investigation about different issues would help curb corruption and investigative reports were an important part of journalism. Female journalists should boost their journalism capacity and should not worry about anything, she added.

Pointing to the peace process, Rula Ghani said women should not worry about peace negotiations as no peace could be established unless women had their part in sharing their views.

Hasina Safi, acting information and culture minister, told the meeting that female journalists working in provinces faced major security challenges.

She asked security organs to be attentive to the protection of journalists, particularly female media workers.

She expressed concern about unemployment of female journalists and asked media officials to prefer capacity and qualification of female workers instead of their beauty.

Safi said her ministry was preparing an action plan for journalists and had launched a survey to identify problems facing journalists across the country.

She also asked all media outlets to respect laws, systems and policies related to female journalists.

Any concerns women journalists have about the peace process would be discussed on the negotiation table, Safi added.

Farida Nikzad, head of Women Journalists Support Center, presented a brief report of the center's last year activities and said the organization was founded with the support of Reporters without Borders and a number of journalists in 2017.

She said the aim of the center was to improve capacity of female journalists, support them and defend the freedom of speech. (Pajhwok)

(8) Kabul Event...

he said, Daesh had been defeated and could not launch such attacks alone without support from inside the government.

"The attack happened due to government's negligence or collusion to target its political rivals in such a critical situation," he said.

He claimed some circles within the government had links with Daesh group, adding the government through its campaign was unable prevent the gathering from being held but disrupted the gathering through the attack which lasted

half an hour.

But Presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansouri rejected Mohaqiq's comment and termed it as insult to security forces of the country.

"Whatever Mohaqiq claim is, the people of Afghanistan want him to present evidence in support of his claim," he said.

Three bodies and at least 22 injured people were shifted to different hospitals in capital Kabul after the gathering marking the death anniversary of minority leader Aabdu Ali Mazari, the founder of Hezb-i-Wahdat Islami Afghanistan, came under attack on Thursday.

The gathering marking the 24th death anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari was disrupted after several mortar shells fell close to the venue. Several politicians, including ex-President Hamid Karzai, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah and former NSA Hanif Atmar were also present at the meeting. (Pajhwok)

(9) Conditions...

process as well. And so, as I indicated, as I talk about my best military advices, we should make decisions based on the political progress. The political conditions where we are in the reconciliation right now, don't merit that," said Votel.

Votel's remarks come amid New York Times has reported that the US and the Taliban in Qatar in principle has agreed on two key issues over Afghanistan peace that includes US forces withdrawal and a commitment that Afghanistan soil will not be used against other nations.

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said that the achievements of the past one and half decade gained following the collapse of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, should not be sacrificed in the peace talks.

Stoltenberg said that peace should be built upon the achievements, especially the human rights and women rights.

"For any peace to be sustainable, it will need to be built on the achievements that we have made in recent years, including on human rights and the rights of women," said Stoltenberg.

In the meantime, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Afghanistan once again should not become a rivalry ground between big powers.

Wang said China as a neighbor of Afghanistan wants a peaceful Afghanistan and that it supports the Afghan peace process.

"Afghanistan should not again become an arena of great power rivalry, nor should it be subject to incessant conflicts or wars. As Afghanistan's neighbor and friend, China will respect its people's wishes and needs, continue to do its best for pushing forward reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan," he said.

Wang said that in order to make Afghanistan's reconciliation a success, the international community should provide firm support to the peace process. (Tolo news)

(10) Canadians...

"Some women were being called prostitutes just for going out to run and getting terrorist threats from some groups for doing so."

The races raise awareness and support for gender equality in 'war zones like Afghanistan where even a short jog outside comes with great risk.

Claudette Warren and Virginia Hobbs, who met running, organized the St. John's event. (Jeremy Eaton/CBC)

The first secret marathon was held in Afghanistan in 2015. The event was kept secret to protect women from

attacks or persecution. (Pajhwok)

(11) AGO Hires 359...

In the past few years the AGO hired 1,704 persons which included 359 women employees.

In order to prevent violence against women a separate department of coordination had been created comprising of 13-members most of them women.

In its administration, the AGO has developed another department which investigate incidents related to violence against women and children which had been effective in reducing the incidents of violence.

As part of the government practical efforts, individuals involved in violence against women are excluded from reduction in jail terms on special occasions. (Pajhwok)

(12) 18 Rebels...

a statement from the MoD said.

Afghan Air Force carried out 70 flights to support security forces on the ground as a result 18 rebels were killed and three Pakistani arrested.

Separately, police in Baghlan province arrested one person and recovered 17 kilograms of heroin. (Pajhwok)

(13) US Urges...

According to a statement issued by the Serbian president's office after the meeting, Vucic told Hale that Kosovo's platform "amounts to a decision by Pristina to halt dialogue with Belgrade" because it leaves no room for compromise.

Although never made official, Vucic is thought to be seeking changes, or "corrections," of Kosovo's borders as part of an overall agreement — something not welcomed by many EU states. (AP)

(14) French Foreign...

are in the lowest C category of civil service jobs, working as administrative assistants and the like — 67 percent of the jobs in this category are done by women. (RT)

(15) Brazil President...

Critics of the pension reform have previously condemned Bolsonaro's proposals to curtail generous benefits without requiring the military to share in the pain.

As a congressman for 27 years, Bolsonaro often voted against such proposals himself.

But the far-right leader, who said during the election campaign he did not know much about the economy, now says he was wrong to do that and has made pension reform a central pillar of his administration's agenda in a bid to boost Latin America's largest economy.

Bolsonaro, a staunch supporter Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship, said Thursday: "Democracy and freedom only exist when the armed forces want them to."

The speech to troops was Bolsonaro's first public event since he sparked outrage by sharing a video on Twitter showing a man urinating on the head of another man during a Carnival party. Bolsonaro said in the tweet he was showing how debase Carnival celebrations had become. (Fox News)

(16) S. Korea, Us Sign...

After his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore last year, Trump unilaterally announced the suspension of another major U.S.-South Korea exercise, calling joint drills "very provocative" and "massively expensive."

Many experts think the lack of comprehensive joint exercises will eventually likely weaken the allies' military readiness if diplomacy fails and tensions with North Korea return.

Trump's second summit with Kim in Vietnam last week ended without any agreement. (AP)