

(1) Mohaqiq Stresses...

we tell them that we know our country better than you. Without General (Abdul Rashid) Dostum, there is a big gap in one part of the country and it should be addressed," said Mohaqiq. Former Senate speaker Sebghatullah Mujaddedi meanwhile called for a peaceful solution of rift between government leaders.

"Anyone who is a leader or is in power, should not see people based on their color and other characteristics; they should see everyone equally," Mujaddedi said.

"The strongest enemy of Afghanistan's people is organized tribal divisions, tension and discrimination for a specific purpose," Abdul Wali Massoud, head of Massoud Foundation said.

Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah at the event said the upcoming election should be held transparently and that he urges people to participate widely in this process.

"You in addition to electing your representatives and your fate, will fulfill a big responsibility," said Abdullah.

Deputy Head of Jamiat-e-Islami Party, Ahmad Zia Massoud, said their main demand is a major change in the country's political system.

"Jamiat-e-Islami does not want ministries, governor's offices and embassies; the only thing that it wants is a massive political change," said Massoud.

Participants of the ceremony appreciated Mazari's fights and activities for freedom.

The National Unity Government gave Abdul Ali Mazari the title of "Martyr of National Unity" two years ago. (Tolo news)

(2) Pakistan Reopens...

Pakistani officials had informed the Afghan authorities and traders as well as Pakistani traders in North Waziristan for the trial run of the border reopening.

Officials say the Ghulam Khan border point, which will have modern facilities, could become the biggest trade route as containers bringing Afghan transit goods from Karachi port would use this crossing instead of Torkham.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a transit agreement, which was signed in 1960s and revised in 2010, to allow landlocked Afghanistan imports through Karachi port. (Xinhua)

(3) Death Toll...

Sources however said at least 10 people were killed and 22 others were wounded in the blast. (Tolo news)

(4) AIHRC Chair...

women employed in security institutions was a core reason for the deteriorating security in Afghanistan. Speaking at a gathering to mark International Women's Day, Samar said that without respecting human rights and improving the lives of women, it will not be an easy task to move Afghanistan towards an era of sustainable development.

She stated that the Afghan government needs to address the plight of women particularly in remote regions to help the people forge peace.

"There is no woman's presence in national security in Afghanistan. Because until now they do not believe that a woman can contribute towards bringing peace to the country. Therefore, we need to change this trend, if we do not change this, then we will make everything male-oriented, our language speaks the language of men, ... and our development projects are male projects," said Samar.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's First Lady Rula Ghani said that over the past seventeen years, a new generation of women has emerged in Afghanistan. "Many networks of women and girls are growing, the women have realized that they need to cooperate with each other," said Rula Ghani.

In addition British ambassador to Afghanistan Nicholas Kay said his country strongly supports the efforts being made to improve conditions of the women.

"The need in Afghanistan for women to participate in the peace process and for any peace agreement with the Taliban to respect fully women's rights and the United Kingdom

absolutely supports this, second to education," said Kay.

"Yet more than a billion women in the world lack legal protection against domestic sexual violence, the global gender pay gap is 20 percent rising to 40 percent in rural areas and unpaid work done by many women goes unrecognized. Where laws exist, they are often ignored," said Renaud Dettale, from the UNHCR.

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year. It commemorates the movement for women's rights. (Tolo news)

(5) Kabul Pursuing both...

Conference" here on Thursday.

The NSA said the conference was of high importance and all countrymen and women had been awaiting the outcome of this national event.

Atmar congratulated security forces for the successful conduct of the Kabul Process Conference and the TAPI gas pipeline inaugural ceremonies.

He said not only the Afghans but the global community specially NATO and participants of the Warsaw Conference, including US President Donald Trump, during their speeches had praised the bravery and sacrifices of Afghan forces.

Atmar said terrorism was a threat to Afghanistan and the entire world and the international community could not fight the menace without the help of Afghanistan.

Referring to security forces, he said: "Your achievements and the way you fought terrorism is not only a pride for the Afghans but for the international community as well."

He said the Afghan government would present two different strategies on peace and counter-terrorism to the international community.

The international community wondered how peace and terrorism -- a two different strategies -- could be implemented the same time, said Atmar.

He added the Afghan government and security bosses briefed the participants of Kabul Process Conference about the security and counter-terrorism strategies and made them satisfied.

Atmar said the region and global community faced "triangular terrorism" originated from criminal economy, drugs and state sponsored terrorism.

He said the people of Afghanistan faced with one internal and three external terrorist groups.

He said there were three more terrorist groups which the Afghan government would fight and not talk. Daesh, Al Qaeda, Pakistani Taliban that included Lashkar-i-Tayyiba, Jaish Mohammad and others and in the third rank were Uzbek and eastern Turkistan groups, Ansarullah and Jundullah

He said all these groups had links with the Taliban and if the Taliban cuts ties with them, the government would talk to the Afghan Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(6) Disabled American...

and I could stand on my feet, like him (Staff Sgt. Jones), and do my chores," he told VOA. "But if I were in this situation, I would not be able to take care of my daily tasks since I have many problems."

Some Afghan officials say military personnel should receive a yearly retirement benefit from the government. But Kunari says he has never received a check.

Joey Jones has great respect for the sacrifices of his Afghan counterparts -- who are often left to fend for themselves.

"It was inspiring and heartbreaking to see Rafiullah and to know he doesn't get the legs that I value or the opportunity that I get," he said. "But what I'd like to tell him is that he's still an inspiration even to me. To suffer through what he's gone through. But still he'll continue living his life and not just be a beggar or someone who feels sorry for himself. You can see it in his eyes - that he's a fighter."

Joey Jones & Rafiullah Kunari, two soldiers on the same battlefield. But, each facing new challenges as they adjust to life outside the military. (VoA)

(7) Govt Finalizes Plan...

lack of coordination among security force members in military operations against insurgents.

"The new strategy of the United States is to the detriment of Taliban and Haqqani network if it is continued," said Mohammad Nateqi, deputy head of Islamic Solidarity Party of Afghanistan.

"There was no national consensus about war in Afghanistan, there was no political coordination, no military coordination between security force and donor countries and in general there was no coordination (in the past)," Zakaria Zakaria, an MP, said. (Tolo news)

(8) Abdullah Warns...

he was a man of this country and had deep links with the country's soil and its people," former president Hamid Karzai said.

Abdullah meanwhile said the National Unity Government has failed to secure people's trust in electoral process.

He pointed to the peace process and government's peace offer to Taliban and said no 'secret deal' will happen in the negotiations process.

"Peace will not come if any secret deal is involved and people will not support it. The people who sacrifice their lives for peace, will stand against it," said Abdullah.

Adib Fahim, son of Marshal Fahim and the first deputy head of the National Directorate of Security called on people to stay united.

"Accepting each other means mutual respect, respect to the great nation of Afghanistan. Accepting each other means leaving small interests for the big interests and for Afghanistan interests," Fahim said. (Tolo news)

(9) Time for UN...

country and let the world know more of its behavior," Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mahmoud Saikal told the -15membered body during an open debate on Afghanistan.

For too long the debate on state-sponsored terrorism has been kept away from international forums, including the United Nations, he said. Beyond the intelligence networks, the rest of the world knows little about the behavior of this aspect of terrorism at national, regional and international levels, he added.

"The regional state sponsors of terror outfits exported to our country have recently pursued new methods of denial and belligerence by playing reverse psychology and attempting to distort narratives," Saikal said.

Irrefutable evidence of complicity in facilitating safe havens and logistical support to terrorists has been responded to by failed methods of counter-narration - accusing Afghanistan of "providing safe havens to terrorists," he alleged.

Saikal said exploiting democratic political dynamics of Afghanistan, they attempted to sow discord among Afghans, victimize refugees by unfairly linking them to terrorism, and portray their orchestrated terror attacks as "civil war."

"According to the latest UN report, Afghanistan has suffered more than 10,000 civilian casualties yearly, over the past four years, mainly caused by terrorist attacks plotted beyond its frontiers, he said.

"In desperation they don't even hold back from such heavily risk-prone attempts as to abuse and manipulate ironclad and all-weather friendships in international relations in favor of concealing the evidence of their sponsorship of terrorism, obfuscating facts and distorting narratives at regional and global forums," Saikal said.

The Kabul Process is not just about outreach to the Taliban. It is about ending the conflict, achieving peace and preserving the democratic order for which numerous Afghans and allies have sacrificed their lives. "Moreover, the Taliban should not be permitted to misuse the opportunity presented as they have done so in the past," Saikal said.

In her remarks, Pakistan's top diplomat Maleeha Lodhi said her country would play its part in fostering such a dignified process. She renewed the call for the Taliban to renounce violence and join the peace talks.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Syed Akbaruddin said that despite the international community

efforts, those supporting the terrorists affecting Afghanistan have not been deterred.

"There are still those who provide sanctuaries to support the dark agendas of terrorist organizations like the Taliban, Haqqani Network, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, LeT and JeM. Indeed the challenges posed by cross border terrorism emanating from safe havens and sanctuaries to Afghanistan and to our region must be addressed," he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) All Plans in...

a 10 and -30year program need to be outlined for this mega economic project," said Haseeb Mawahid, one economic expert.

After years of waiting, work finally started on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline project on February 24 and the project heralded a major breakthrough in Afghanistan in terms of regional connectivity.

The -1,814kilometer gas pipeline will pass through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. At least 816 kilometers of the pipeline will run through Afghanistan.

The pipeline passes through Herat, Farah, Nimroz, Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

TAPI will transport gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India via a 1,814km pipeline.

In Afghanistan, the TAPI pipeline will be constructed alongside the Kandahar-Herat Highway in western Afghanistan, and then via Quetta and Multan in Pakistan.

The pipeline will be 1,814 kilometers long and will have the capacity of transferring 33 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India through Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

(11) Govt Should...

as part of the peace offer package. He said those parts will become centers of chaos if they were handed to the Taliban.

"You (government) should have offer, but should not overload them. Tell them to come to their country and we will give you ministry, you can live in anywhere and can form political party and so on. But for the sake of Allah, do not give them overloaded offer from the part of the people. Do not tell them that come and we will give you that province, will hand safe area to you. Once you (government) hand that area as safe area to them (Taliban), then it will not become a secure region, but will become a region of chaos," said Sayyaf.

He said Taliban can enter politics by giving up war and violence. Sayyaf who also heads the Council of Protection and Stability of Afghanistan said no one should impose their views on religious affairs.

"The Almighty Allah's Halal and Haram are known. He himself has said it and His messenger has said it. Who we are to say that this is Halal and this is Haram. It is not legal to say this. Allah has prohibited this. Right now a few meters a way from the gathering held for Abdul Ali Mazari in the west of Kabul, a suicide attack happened. Discussions are ongoing to call it (such suicide attack) Haram or Halal," said Sayyaf.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, head of Hizb-e-Islami, said the only way to go out of the current crisis is to stay united and prioritize the country's national interests.

"We should stay united and a day should come that no longer conspiracies and viruses of foreigners should infect us and no longer foreigners' viruses will make our mothers to cry," said Arghandiwal. (Tolo news)

(12) UNSC Extends...

Afghan women had changed over the last 17 years: the tireless efforts of women themselves, and the country's Constitution, which enabled women to become engaged in political and social issues.

The Taliban would be recognized as a political party so long as it obeyed the rule of law and respected women's rights.

Mariam Safi, Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies, on the other hand cautioned that the hope of a

brighter future was beginning to fade. Safe zones had become battlefields, and for the first time, young single women comprised a significant number of refugees, she said.

"For Afghan women, it is imperative for the State to define the type of peace that would ensue from negotiations," she said, stressing that they believed their rights to be intricately linked to the peace process outcomes. She urged the Council to persuade Pakistan to curb terrorism and support an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Tadamichi Yamamoto, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, said upcoming elections in Afghanistan would be an opportunity to ensure that unity and stability prevailed, with all groups represented. (Pajhwok)

(13) Female Police...

But for women like Shokria Jan, the challenges go beyond hopeful words. A widow and a mother of four, she is her family's only breadwinner after her husband, also a police officer, was killed while on duty.

"The Taliban ambushed and killed my husband who was serving in police uniform," she said.

"After that, I decided to join the police to earn an income for my four kids as well as to contribute in serving my country. So now I'm serving in the police, the same as my husband."

Getting more women into the Afghan security forces has been a priority for Ghani's Western-backed government but it has not proved easy, and training facilities for women are limited.

As part of the Afghan National Police strategy, the government intends to recruit an additional 5,000 female police officers over the coming five years. Last year, 190 women were sent to Turkey for training.

Commanders say that female officers play an essential role in areas where men cannot go and in interactions with women at checkpoints. There are now around 110 female officers serving in Kandahar, in locations including the city airport.

"In the past, we did not have female police and we had lots of problems, especially in house searches and similar operations," said Abdul Baqi, a local police commander in Kandahar. For a monthly salary of less than 200\$, Shokria Jan talks to women, who in the conservative society of southern Afghanistan cannot normally speak to men outside their family. She also conducts the body searches - on women - that have long become part of everyday life for Afghans.

It is an often thankless job but one which she says is more than just a way to earn a living and feed her children. (Reuters)

(14) Nearly 100...

wounded and nine were killed in Mizan district and provincial capital Qalat of Zabul province.

Another nine militants were injured and their one car and eight bikes were confiscated in the Zabul operation. Eight militants were killed and one was injured in Andar district of Ghazni.

Six militants were killed in Paktia's Zurmat district and five in Bala Bolok district. Three militants were killed in Nangarhar's Surkhrod district and as many in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz province, the statement said.

Near the capital of Paktika, two militants were killed, one rebel was killed in Tirinkot, the capital of central Uruzgan province. (Pajhwok)

(15) Pak Ports to...

financial support from the US, the system will link 44 ministries, departments and regulators within the country besides connections with regional countries, including Afghanistan, China and Iran.

Scheduled to become operational by end of 2019, the system will be enforced in phases over the next five years. (Pajhwok)

(16) Above 1500...

program to highlight women's rights. Yasmin believed if the government punished those involved in crimes against women, it would positively impact the situation of females. (Pajhwok)