

(1) CEO Dubs...

triggering a confrontation with the Presidential Palace. However, recently government officials said an agreement had reached between the two sides. (Pajhwok)

(2) Indonesian...

on issuing a fatwa," Junaidi added.

Secretary-General Anwar Abbas said they expect representatives from the Taliban to attend the meeting since this is part of the peace process efforts. The Foreign Ministry's director for the South and Central Asia region, Ferdy Piy, told Arab News that the ministry is aware of Taliban's statement but declined to comment further, saying that the ministry will need to review the statement first.

Earlier, the Taliban described the peace process as "deceptive" efforts and that their enemies were going to trick respected Islamic scholars into gathering in Jakarta, a statement published on their website said.

In a message they sent to Afghan, Pakistani, Indonesian and other Islamic countries scholars, the Taliban called on them to avoid participating in such conference. "Do not afford an opportunity to the invading infidels in Afghanistan to misuse your name and participation in this conference as means of attaining their malicious objective," the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(3) Attempt to...

Ali Raza, a political administration official, told The News the truck (-779NGR) was stopped at the border. During the search, 20 sniper guns were recovered.

Driver Noor Gul and his helper Faizul Amin, both Afghan nationals, were sent to the Landikotal lock-up. A sniper gun costs around Rs1.4 million. (Pajhwok)

(4) NDS Says...

out a suicide bombing in Kabul, a statement from NDS said.

The would-be bomber was Abdullah, alias AjabGul. He is the son of Fazal Rahman. During initial interrogations, the detainee has reportedly confessed to receiving terrorist training across the Duran Line from Taliban. He was sent to Kabul for suicide bombing. (Pajhwok)

(5) Badakhshan Launches...

and Kohistan districts could not be administered polio drops to the opposition of Taliban.

Naemi added in 2017, around 6,000 children were missed out in Warduj district alone. He expressed delight over the launch of today's polio vaccination drive that followed efforts by local elders.

Syed Farooq Nasar, a senior official at the Public Health Department, said 200,000 children in 19 Badakhshan districts would receive polio drops in the first spring campaign.

In addition 170,000 children under five years of age would be provided with Vitamin A tablets. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghan Forces...

insurgency.

In January, the governor of Farah resigned, blaming political interference and corruption. Residents of Farah city have complained bitterly about security in the province, where some police units are alleged to collude with Taliban fighters, selling them weapons and ammunition.

Although they have failed to take any major provincial cities, the insurgents have several times seized district centers, even if they have often been driven off soon after by government reinforcements.

With the approach of milder spring weather, security officials have said they expect fighting to surge as the Taliban, fighting to drive out international forces and re-impose their version of strict Islamic law, step up pressure.

The U.S. military's latest estimates from December show the Afghan government controls or has influence over 56 percent of districts, with insurgents controlling or contesting the rest. (Reuters)

(7) Taliban Likely...

talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban, the press office of Uzbekistan's foreign ministry said in a written reply to questions from Reuters.

The United States last year stepped up its military assistance to Afghanistan, notably through a sharp increase in air strikes, with the aim of breaking a stalemate with the insurgents and forcing them to the negotiating table. While the U.S. military says the strategy has hit the Taliban hard, they still control or contest much of the country. On Monday, Afghan forces battled to recapture a district center in the western province of Farah, after Taliban fighters seized the town in an overnight attack. (Reuters)

(8) Japan Pledges...

from the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

These two mine clearance projects would be implemented in Parwan and Panjsher provinces under Japan's assistance scheme "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP)," the statement said.

Successful implementation of these projects would clear 1,526,382 square meters of minefields and battlefields in mentioned provinces.

These projects would benefit more than 5,000 households in Parwan and Panjsher provinces. The area free from landmines and explosive remnants of war in these provinces would provide safe grounds for local residents to conduct their daily activities.

"The cleared areas will be used for agriculture, animals' grazing and safe movements of local residents and people passing Kabul - Mazar-e-Sharif highway."

"Construction of Afghanistan Veterinary Association Training Center in Gardez city of Paktia province is also supported under the GAGP. The grant will be used for construction of the training center that will help improving the professional capacity of the field veterinarians and para-vets working in Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Khost, Paktika and Paktia provinces ensuring the better health of animals and ultimately the public health by providing safe and quality products of animals' origin."

Keiichi Hara, Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Japan said: "Mine clearance sets a basic condition for safer living premises and development activities such as infrastructure, agriculture and livestock which ultimately contributes to improve local and national economy."

He further added that "Construction of AVA training centre" is also one of the important projects towards the improvement of the agriculture and livestock sectors of Afghanistan. This training centre will provide the capacity-building courses to the field veterinarians and para-vets working in Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) of Paktia, Khost and Paktika provinces. We hope, through opening the first-ever AVA training centre in the South-East area in the country,

the project will contribute to combating animals diseases especially causing public health concerns in Afghanistan."

Japan has so far contributed more than 6.57 billion USD to Afghanistan's nation-building efforts since 2001, in various fields including security, political process, education, health, culture, humanitarian assistance, agriculture, infrastructure and its capacity development. (Pajhwok)

(9) Activists Call...

The villagers claim the two people were killed by armed men from Nikhta village.

However, the ministry of interior (MoI) sent in a team to assess the situation. They held talks with tribal elders in Ghazni in the hope of getting the villagers to reopen the Kabul-Kandahar Highway to traffic.

But activists said the efforts have not been enough and that government needs to step in and help resolve the problem before it is too late.

Armed opponents could exploit the problem if it is not settled very soon, they warned.

"Unfortunately, people in Sher Abad village were selling their water shares to the neighboring villages," said civil society activist Ali Fakoor.

"Self-interested people are further escalating this issue and they have turned it into an ethnic problem. There is the possibility that the scale of tensions are expanded, we call on government to settle these issues justly," said civil activist Laila Jawad.

Activists also called on government to deploy security forces to the area.

"The incidents in Qarabagh have taken victims from the ordinary people," said another activist Naeem Nazari.

According to civil society activists, the water which comes from nearby Nikhta village flows to Sher Abad village but they say the amount is not shared equally. They said equal share of water was not taken into account when the water agreement was signed during the previous government's tenure.

Based on the decision by government, residents of Sher Abad village were given the right to use water for 12 consecutive days while Nikhta villagers were given the right to only five consecutive days. This has enraged Nikhta villagers who say they want the share of water to be equal. (Tolo news)

(10) Nangarhar Police...

such incidents. The father said he did not believe he would see his daughter again.

However, the detainees rejected their involvement in the kidnapping, but Mashriqiwal said every criminal claimed innocence. (Pajhwok)

(11) Celebratory...

not be heard inside the Parliament hall, when I got out around 2,000 bullets were fired." "Bringing weapons to the Parliament is illegal. We also can bring rockets and machineguns if such practice is not stopped," warned Mujahid.

He criticized the Parliament security in-charge and said he should be removed from his duty.

"When security officials fail to prevent weapons' entry to Parliament, then a suicide bomber can also enter easily," Mujahid said.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahim also expressed his concern over the firing into the air in Parliament compound and said it was deplorable.

He asked legislators to avoid bringing weapons to the Parliament compound for better security. (Pajhwok)

Pm for Joint Efforts to Take Iran-Pakistan Trade to \$5 Billion By 2021

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister ShahidKhaqanAbbasi Monday said that Pakistan and Iran should work together and make their utmost efforts for enhancing the bilateral trade to \$5 billion by 2021.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister of Iran Dr. JavadZarif, who called on him here, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Iran including bilateral trade, investments and commercial interaction.

During the meeting, both sides discussed efforts for strengthening of bilateral relations and issues related to peace and security in the region. Prime Minister Abbasi emphasized the need to deepen connectivity to harness benefits from regional economic integration.

He expressed his commitment to work to resolve the issues in implementation of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project including the financing of pipeline infrastructure and the scope of snap back clause.

The prime minister said that Pakistan was working towards realizing its vision of a peaceful and inter-connected region for shared progress and prosperity. "We believe that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is vital for economic progress of the region and Pakistan and Iran as the two neighbouring countries can make important contribution for achieving this objective," he remarked.

He also thanked the Iranian leadership for their steadfast support to the principled struggle of Kashmiris.

The Iranian foreign minister appreciated the increasing high level interaction between the two countries.

He said the mutual efforts of the two countries had resulted into enhanced economic and people-to-people interaction, which should be further strengthened. Dr. Zarif also appreciated Pakistan's efforts for strengthening border management to prevent illegal cross border activities.

DrJavadZarif is visiting Pakistan from March 13-11 for bilateral consultations with the foreign minister. During this visit, he is also having interaction with relevant ministers and senior civil and military officials. (Monitoring Desk)

Afghan Refugees in Syria Forced to Move on to Romania

TIMISOARA, Romania - More than 30 years ago, Muhammad Hussain, aged just 23, took responsibility for getting his wife, his mother, two brothers and four sisters out of Afghanistan to safety after war broke out.

It was the start of an odyssey that took them to Turkey, Iran then in 1989 to Syria where, he believed they had found peace. He began rebuilding his life through hard work, first in construction, then by starting two businesses of his own, only to see it fall apart when war broke out in the country he had called home.

More than 5 million refugees have fled Syria since 2011, but the country is less well-known for sheltering thousands of refugees from elsewhere, who often find themselves trapped by the conflict.

This year UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has asked resettlement countries to open their doors to 1,500 refugees still in Syria - 1,340 Iraqis, 80 Afghans and 80 from other countries - who are not adequately protected

there.

Hussain is one of the lucky ones. After reaching Romania, where they spoke to UNHCR, he and his wife Sakina and their youngest son, -18year-old Murtaza

Husaini, are now in the United Kingdom. UNHCR's support and the British government's generosity through its resettlement programme have given the family a chance to start their lives over again.

Over the decades, Hussain's siblings and his two older sons found safety at opposite ends of the earth, in the United States and Australia.

"Resettlement keeps refugees safe by moving them to a secure third country," says Montserrat FeixasVihe, UNHCR's regional representative for Central Europe. "The Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara, Romania, is an important place where refugees on their way to a resettlement country can stay safe while their case is completed."

Life in Syria was relatively good before fighting began in 2011, Hussain recalls. Echoing the words of refugees the world over, he says: "When the war started, I thought 'today, maybe tomorrow, after a few months, it will be finished'. Until 2014 I still thought there would be peace."

Reluctantly abandoning those hopes, he registered with UNHCR as a refugee in Syria that year.

During his time in Syria, he made some choices he says people with more comfortable lives in peaceful countries might find difficult to understand. Desperate to provide his two older sons safety and education, he used his life savings, the proceeds from both his businesses, to send them out of the country separately, using people smugglers.

"I don't want for people to help me. I like to help people".

For anyone tempted to judge his decision, he says: "We have a saying in my country: 'Those who have a full stomach don't think the same as someone who is hungry'."

At 57, Hussain is grateful for the new start in the UK: "For the few years I have left, my life will be in peace." Speaking his native Dari through an interpreter, he says he hopes to learn English as well as he learned Arabic in Syria.

His wife Sakhina, is less excited about the need to learn another language in one more country after a lifetime on the move.

Hussain plans to put into practice the advice he gave his children throughout the family's peripatetic life. "I told them, 'everywhere you go, try to integrate'."

As soon as he arrived in the UK, he vowed to "start work immediately. I don't want for people to help me. I like to help people". (UNHCR/Report)

Trump to "Keep America Great" In 2020

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump has said his slogan for his second presidential bid would be "Keep America great", building on his previous slogan "make America great again".

"Our new slogan when we start running in, can you believe it, two years from now, is going to be 'Keep America Great' exclamation point," Trump said Saturday evening at a Pennsylvania rally.

"We can't say 'Make America Great Again' because I already did that," Trump said as he boasted his accomplishments in the past year, including a massive tax cut, booming stock market and healthy job numbers.

Trump told the Washington Times in January his intention of coining the phrase and instructed his lawyers to trademark the slogan. (Xinhua)