

(1) Ghani Stresses...

"We honor on our security forces and they are fighting for their country," he said "Afghanistan is not the previous Afghanistan. Today you can see our sisters, elders and you can also see freedom."

He stressed that peace should be long-term not a peace which will lead to "bloodshed".

"This is the year that we will celebrate 100 years of Afghanistan's Independence," Ghani said, adding that this year "we should support our unity."

Ghani wished Afghans a happy New Year and said he hopes the people will witness peace this year. Nawroz was celebrated in different part of the country on Thursday. (Tolo News)

(2) Trump Will Not...

"It is difficult to resolve Afghanistan's issue through military. Because, in the four decades of war in Afghanistan and 18 years of foreign forces presence in Afghanistan, the issue has not been solved," said Sayed Naqibullah Hashemi, a political analyst. Afghan politicians said people's rights should be reserved in the peace process.

"We should not consider peace as losing citizenship rights, women's rights and we should hope for peace," said Anwarul Haq Ahadi, head of the New National Front of Afghanistan.

"The outline and agenda that the Americans have started for regional and international consensus, as well as among the Afghan people, is ongoing as planned. The ideas which are being expressed are just for undermining and weakening Afghanistan's peace process," said Bilal Niazi, a political analyst. (Tolo News)

(3) Newborn Dies...

been, after two days his weight decreased further and his treatment was not possible here so the baby died," he said.

He rejected the father's claim that there was not oxygen available for the baby. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghanistan Exports...

and Asian nations this year while 175 tonnes of goods exported via Lapiz Luzulli Corridor.

He said the ministry has been planning to create different chambers within the ministry next year to help promote production of agricultural good, fruits and local crafts. (Agencies)

(5) Afghans Celebrate...

organizing music and poetry gatherings.

"This is an ancient festival. Herat has been the hub of Nawroz celebrations during the course of history," said Arif, a resident of Herat.

"Women were notable to accompany men in celebrating such festivals in the past, but now they are also able to celebrate the festivals together," said Nooria, a Herat resident.

International Nawroz Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/253/64 of 2010, at the initiative of several countries that share this holiday.

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a cultural tradition observed by numerous peoples, Nawroz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighborliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities. In 2009, Nawroz was officially registered on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Nawroz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March. It is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300

million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and other regions. (Tolo News)

(6) Presidential, Provincial...

and the people of Afghanistan to cooperate with the election bodies and discharge their national, moral and legal responsibilities towards making the elections a success story. Presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri said changing the election schedule was the right of the election commission and the government fully respected its independence.

He added the IEC decided the fresh date after consultations with political parties, civil society organizations and election watchdogs.

It was the third time that the presidential election has been delayed from its earlier schedules in April and July. (Pajhwok)

(7) Peace Should Not...

Hope that soon after years of conflict peace will come to Afghanistan, but fear that this peace will come with a compromise on human rights, specially rights of women and of the young population. Let's combat this fear with unity, solidarity and strengthening of democracy starting with good elections in 2019," said Mayaudon.

Meanwhile, former ambassador of Taliban to Islamabad Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef said that the Taliban is preparing for a meeting with the Afghan political elites in which the two sides will discuss the country's internal issues.

"Efforts are underway for an intra-Afghan dialogue on 14th of 15th of April in Qatar," said Zaeef.

"Any topic which is considered in the interests of Afghanistan and its agenda is clear and not vague, no doubt, the high peace council of Afghanistan will give positive response to it," said HPC spokesman Sayed Ehsan Taheri.

But the Taliban who attended a meeting with Afghan politicians in Moscow last month have persistently said that the group will not talk to the Afghan government and instead branded the government in Kabul as "puppet".

At the Moscow meeting, delegates from Taliban and politicians issued a joint declaration in which they outlined a nine point approach to promote "intra-Afghan" dialogue aimed at finding a political settlement to the conflict in the country.

The delegates unanimously agreed to hold the next round of talks in Qatar's capital Doha as soon as possible.

Taliban's chief negotiator Abbas Stanakzai said in his opening remarks to delegates at the Moscow Peace Talks meeting last month that the group does not consider the current Afghan Constitution "legitimate" and that this blueprint was an obstacle to peace.

Stanakzai said that once US forces withdraw, the Taliban will not demand political monopoly and that in order to achieve sustainable peace, the names of Taliban leaders must be removed from the US blacklist so that they can travel freely in their efforts for peace.

This comes at a time that The fifth round of the talks between the US and Taliban negotiators in Qatar ended after 16 days on 12 of March with agreement in draft between the two sides on some key issues under debate.

The four main topics of US-Taliban talks in Qatar have been US forces withdrawal from Afghanistan, ensuring that Afghanistan's territory is not used as a threat to any other country, a comprehensive ceasefire and direct talks with the Afghan government. This was confirmed by the Afghan government as well as by sources ahead of the talks. (Tolo News)

(8) German Parliament...

train, assist, advise AFG security forces," he said.

The mission has been extended with virtually the same mandate as in past years, though recent suggestions from Washington that the United States may draw down its presence have provoked some uncertainty among NATO allies.

Quoted by dpa.international, Fritz Felgentreu, a lawmaker from Germany's Social Democrats, urged the deployment to continue but warned that if the US were to leave prematurely, the Bundeswehr would be expected to depart as well. (Tolo News)

(9) Farmer's Day...

the exhibition on the Farmer's Day said they hope to gain contracts for their products.

Zahra Wafa, head of Bamiyan Business Women Association, said she has attended the exhibition on behalf of Bamiyan women and that she hopes to sign some contracts at the event.

"We have put on display Bamiyan women's handicrafts at the exhibition and we hope to achieve small and medium contracts," said Wafa.

Agricultural products were put on display in 230 booths.

The exhibition will be open for six days. (Tolo News)

(10) UAE's Crown Prince...

The US hopes that a negotiated deal with the Taliban, which continues to battle Afghan government and international forces, could allow it to start withdrawing some of its 14,000 troops still in the country before the end of 2019.

The report says that bin Zayed suggested instead organizing what he called a "Blackwater-style" operation to "wage an assassination campaign against the first-line leadership of the Taliban" in order to prevent it from achieving its chief political demands. (Tolo News)

(11) Iran Slams ISIS...

Karte Sakhi is the place for commemorating Nowruz festival in Afghanistan.

The first explosion took place in Nowruz commutation place, the second one on a road leading to the same place from Kabul University, and, ten minutes later, the third one in Kabul University.

The incident has claimed the lives of 6 people and injured 23 more. (IRNA)

(12) Explosions in Kabul...

Lots of Kabul residents had gathered in the area to celebrate Nawroz, but the celebration later changed to mourning due to the back-to-back explosions.

The first two explosions happened near civilian houses in Kart-e-Sakhi, but the families living in the houses did not suffer fatalities.

"No one has suffered. The boys were taken preparations to go to the Nawroz ceremony. They had not left the house that the explosion happened and all the dust from the ceiling fallen on us," Mariam, a resident of Kart-e-Sakhi said.

The third explosion happened near Ali Abad Hospital in the vicinity of Kart-e-Sakhi in which three people were wounded.

Following the first two explosions, people quickly left Kart-e-Sakhi area and the roads at the area were closed by security forces.

The wounded people were transferred to Ali Abad Hospital. Most of the wounded were children and old men.

"I was going to Sakhi shrine that the explosion happened. I sustained injuries in my leg and I was transferred to the hospital. I urge President Ashraf Ghani not to let the Taliban to do such thing with us," Parwiz, a Kabul resident said. (Tolo News)

(13) IEC to Use...

be renewed and once they are renewed, they will register 10 fingers instead of two fingers and it will solve a big part of our problems."

Critics still remain skeptical about the efficiency of the biometric devices for holding transparent and

fair elections.

"The biometric devices have failed," political commentator Rahmatullah Bezhnipoor said. "The government and the election commission have a limited time to decide which type of elections to hold, how to manage the elections so that they are better than the parliamentary polls."

Electoral observer organizations and representatives of political parties also remain skeptical about the impact of the devices on the elections.

An investigation conducted by few electoral monitoring organizations in Kabul shows that at least 5,000 biometric devices were lost during and after the parliamentary elections.

"Considering the new structure (of the election commission) and the political situation, we are worried that it will be difficult to have an acceptable election," said Naeem Ayubzada, CEO of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan. (Tolo News)

(14) Scientists Deploy...

behaviors and soon had them moving in a similar fashion. Previously, the experimental robots had only been sent in to infiltrate single-species animal groups in order to influence their behavior, blending in with unsuspecting clusters of cockroaches and chicks.

The researchers had already perfected using the bots to convince a school of fish to swim in a chosen direction by replicating their behavioral signals - tail movements, accelerations, and vibrations - and visual signals - colors, stripes, and shapes - in a previous experiment. Meanwhile, the bee-bots controlled their compatriots through vibrations, temperature variations, and air movements.

When connected to one another (across 700km and one national border), the robots mimicking both species quickly compared notes and had their minions dancing to each other's tune within a scant 25 minutes, translating the information each received from the other into appropriate behavioral signals for their respective slice of the animal kingdom.

"The species even started adopting some of each other's characteristics," Mondada marveled. "The bees became a little more restless and less likely to swarm together than usual, and the fish started to group together more than they usually would." (RT)

(15) Washington Targets...

The Treasury, however, stressed that the document itself was "not a sanctions list."

The move came less than a month after Trump's summit with the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, which the US president still hailed as "progress", even though the two sides failed to reach any agreement - precisely because they could agree on the terms for removing US-imposed sanctions on Pyongyang. (RT)

(16) New Zealand...

The OIC meeting in Istanbul was also attended by Erdogan, who briefly met Peters on the sidelines. No other heads of state or government attended the gathering. Iran was represented by Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Saudi Arabia by its ambassador to Turkey. (Reuters)

(17) Stocks Fall...

the U.K. Parliament to endorse a twice-rejected deal. If not, the country will have until April 12 to choose a new path.

"In light of the gridlock between a deal not accepted, the lack of options for revision and a looming deadline, the risk for a hard Brexit amplifies," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a market commentary.

Meanwhile, the preliminary Markit manufacturing purchasing managers' index for Germany, which was released on Friday, fell to 44.7 in March from 47.6 in the previous month. In France,

the reading fell to 49.8 from 51.5 in February. That for the wider eurozone also retreated to 47.6 from 49.3.

Readings for services in all three surveys fell too. Numbers below 50 indicate contraction on the index's -100point scale. (AP)

(18) EU Shows United...

week away - until June 30.

Instead, the leaders agreed to extend the date until May 22, on the eve of EU elections, if she can persuade the British parliament to endorse the Brexit deal. Failing that, May would have until April 12 to choose a new path.

"British politicians are incapable of implementing what the people asked them," French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters. "This crisis is British. In no way must we (the EU) become stuck in this situation, so that is why we have given two deadlines. We are organized."

The aim of the EU move is to ensure that Britain doesn't take part in the May 26-23 elections if it is leaving. Candidates for the Europe-wide polls, being held amid deep concern that mainstream parties could lose seats to anti-immigrant groups and populists, must be enrolled by April 12.

"The U.K. government will still have a choice of a deal, no-deal, a long extension or revoking Article 50. The 12th of April is a key date," said EU Council President Donald Tusk, who chaired the summit.

The leaders seized hold of the Brexit process when May - after repeated questioning - proved unwilling, or perhaps unable, to tell them what she planned to do next week if she fails yet again to convince a skeptical British Parliament to endorse the deal, EU officials said. (AP)

(19) Boeing Makes...

at a time of slowing global economic growth and high fuel costs.

"They have been re-looking at their fleet plan anyway so this is an opportunity to make some changes that otherwise may be difficult to do," CAPA Center for Aviation Chief Analyst Brendan Sobie said. Indonesia's Lion Air has also said it might cancel 737 MAX aircraft after losing a brand-new jet in an accident in October that killed 189 people, though industry sources say the airline is also struggling to absorb the number of planes on order.

Both that crash, and an Ethiopian Airlines one on March 10 that killed 157, are still being investigated. But regulators have noted some similarities between the two, and attention has focused on whether pilots had the correct information about the "angle of attack" at which the wing slices through the air.

No direct link has been proven between the accidents.

Boeing now plans to make compulsory a light to alert pilots when sensor readings of the angle of attack do not match - meaning at least one must be wrong -, according to two officials briefed on the matter. (Reuters)

(20) Syria Vows to...

also has forces in Syria, condemned the statement as illegal and unacceptable.

Turkey, a U.S.-allied state and an adversary of Damascus, said the statement had brought the Middle East to the edge of a new crisis and the legitimization of the occupation of the Golan Heights could not be allowed.

In a tweet, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Trump for his gesture "at a time when Iran seeks to use Syria as a platform to destroy Israel". It could help Netanyahu in the midst of a tough re-election battle, analysts said.

Damascus said on Friday the Golan would remain "Syrian, Arab" and Trump had shown contempt for international law. (Reuters)