

(1) Afghanistan, US...

advisers have decided to identify the issue of terrorist financing and to take common action to eliminate them, the statement added. Delegates at the meeting decided that the UAE will hold an international conference on trade and investment in the near future, and that trade, investment and economic transactions and coordination and cooperation with Afghanistan will be discussed. According to the NSC's statement, during the quadrilateral meeting, consultations and shared responsibilities were discussed about a specific mechanism needed among the four countries. This mechanism, organized as road maps, will help plan the activities and responses of each member in accordance with the agreement, and a technical team will be established to monitor the mechanism, the statement added. (Tolo news)

(2) Meet the Afghan...

four years ago. The 25-year-old woman has three children, two daughters and a son. She had her two-month old child with her when she went to attend the exam in Nilli City. "We live in an area where there is no school, but I always wanted to achieve education and make my way to university. I walked hours until I reached to the center of the province to participate in university entrance exam," said Jahantab. Jahantab's husband and her family are supporting her for posting his photo on social media, despite that according to many, it is a taboo in Afghanistan. Her husband, Isa, said he will support his wife to fulfill her dreams and continue her higher education. Isa is a farmer and works for people in Oshto village in Miramor district.

"When I heard about the success of my wife, I was excited. I will be happier when my wife achieves more success," he said. Jahantab's relatives said they will support her to attend university, because she is interested to learn. "She had a pen or a book on her one hand and was working with another when she was at home. I often said that her talent should not be ignored," Jahantab's uncle Mohammad Reza said. Zahra Yagana, a civil society activist, who has brought Jahantab from Daikundi to Kabul said her courage and desire indicate that Afghan women have a high motivation for education. "Afghan women are the bravest women in the world. They have access to less facilities for improvement, but they have always done something important and have had big achievements," said Yagana. (Tolo news)

(3) President Appoints...

invaluable contribution. Wish her all the very best in her new assignment," he said. Durani has a legal background and studied at Kabul University. She also studied Good Governance and Rule of Law at Ohio Northern Law School and has worked as legal advisor to the ministry of justice and as legal advisor at the Attorney General's Office. In addition, she was an attorney at law at Shajjan & Associates. (Tolo news)

(4) Rashid Creates...

23rd over of the Qualifier final, Rashid achieved the landmark. The leading Afghan bowler is their highest wicket-taker in the tournament. In the 2016 World T20, he finished as the second highest wicket-taker with 11 wickets in seven matches. He also hogged the headlines in his debut seasons in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2017 and the Big Bash League. In the IPL, he claimed 17 wickets in 14 games. In the 2017 IPL edition, Sunrisers Hyderabad paid a whopping Rs4 crore. In the 2018, the club retained Khan for Rs9 crore. (Pajhwok)

(5) 1.5 Million Saplings ...

to farmers in Bamyan. Seeds of five types of potatoes would be distributed to farmers

this year. The seeds have been prepared in various agricultural research farms.

Last solar year that ended on March 21, farmers in Bamyan collected 359 tons of potatoes from their fields. The agriculture director said an increased potato yield was expected next season if there had been no water scarcity.

Also present at the event was Governor Mohammad Tahir Zuhir who urged farmers to pay attention to the province's greenery and promised support in this regard.

"Bamyan is one of the country's attractive places for foreign and local tourists, so we have to work hard to add more to its beauty". Nawruz, a farmer, said: "The farmer's day celebration is good but only festivals will not help until there is practical work from the government side to improve farmers' lives".

He said saplings the government had promised were still not enough. Khudaid, another farmer, expressed similar views and said farmers and orchard owners faced several issues. He said provincial officials should pay attention to farmers' needs if they wanted an improved agriculture. He said tree plantation and crops cultivation in Bamyan was still performed in traditional methods and 80 percent of cultivation took place this way. (Pajhwok)

(6) Arming Taliban...

Ministry has admitted Moscow shares intelligence with the Taliban". Such propaganda tricks were designed for inattentive but suggestible audience and aimed at discrediting Russia's foreign policy and denigrating the country in the court of public opinion, according to the statement. (Pajhwok)

(7) In Zurmat...

to the Taliban but the matter needed to be resolved at a higher level. He added: "I have spoken to the Taliban many times in the presence of some teachers and tribal elders but they told us the issue was beyond the authority of the militants in the district. They were ordered by senior Taliban leaders to close the schools."

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid also confirmed the schools' closure. However, he linked the schools' closure to a shortage lack of female teachers. The schools would remain shut until female teachers were recruited, he said.

"We had previously urged educational department officials and some other organisations to appoint female teachers for the schools but they have done nothing so far to deal with the problem," Mujahid added.

One high, one middle and 11 primary schools for girls had been shut for the past four years, said Educational Director Kochai Zazai. "No female teacher can go to the district to discharge her duty as long as we girls don't graduate from these schools and aren't appointed as teachers."

Mala, a resident hailing from the district, expressed concern over the closure of the schools, saying she had lost hope. She wanted all girls to return to school, complete their education and serve their people. (Pajhwok)

(8) Four Members ...

were leaving the stadium when an explosion happened. Then the vehicles that were parked there caught fire. Most of our family members who were at the cars burned and some of them completely disappeared. We helped some people to take them out of the cars, but most of them lost their lives," said Hayatullah, a relative of the victims.

"We want government to prevent such incidents in future. Now we have lost our family members, but such incidents should be prevented in future," Bashir, a relative said.

The families said government needs to investigate the incident and find those responsible for the attack.

"If government wants to maintain our security, then the investigative departments should be very

active and seriously take measures against such incidents. You see civilians have lost their lives here," said Abdullah, one relative of the family.

All the victims of Friday evening's explosion had been at the wrestling match. (Tolo news)

(9) At Least One...

Afghan police and local residents," he said.

Amin said that one of the bombers was shot by security guards while the second detonated his explosives.

Health officials said one person was confirmed dead, with eight wounded, but the final figures could change.

Herat, one of the most prosperous cities in Afghanistan, has experienced periodic episodes of violence but has not suffered the same level of attacks as the capital Kabul.

While sectarian violence in mainly Sunni Muslim Afghanistan was previously rare, a series of attacks over recent years, many claimed by Islamic State, have killed hundreds of Shi'ites, many from the Hazara ethnic minority.

The local affiliate of Islamic State first appeared in Afghanistan three years ago. As well as its main stronghold in the eastern region of Nangarhar, on the border with Pakistan, fighters declaring allegiance to the group have been active in northern Afghanistan.

The group has also claimed numerous attacks in Kabul and other cities, though many experts doubt whether it has the capacity to conduct such attacks alone and believe it may have received help at times from other militant groups. The violence has occurred alongside a general deterioration in security in Afghanistan as Taliban insurgents have fought government forces across much of the country, killing thousands of civilians every year. (Reuters)

(10) Pakistani...

between the neighbours, joint action against the scourge of terrorism, enhanced trade links and ways of ending the conflict will be high on the agenda," one official said.

Familiar with preparations for the trip, the source in Foreign Office told Pajhwok Afghan News that Abbasi would urge his interlocutors to share their concerns with Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

He said the prime minister, while seeking an end to testy exchanges between the neighbours, would propose an early resumption of high-level visits to boost Afghan-Pakistan relations.

"Defense Minister Khawaja Asif will make a similar pitch at the upcoming conference in Afghanistan in Tashkent," said the source, who did not want to be named.

The Taliban must respond positively to Ghani's offer of open-ended peace talks, the official stressed, calling for inter-state dialogue on improvement of bilateral relations.

Representatives of the US, Russia, India, China, Iran, Central Asian and Gulf nations, as well as the United Nations, will attend next week's meeting and explore ways of stabilising Afghanistan.

Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar will represent India at the March 26-27 gathering, convened by the Uzbekistan president. The issue of cross-border terrorism will figure prominently at the meeting. (Pajhwok)

(11) Turkish PM B...

Turkish diplomat also said a consulate of his country would be opened soon in western Herat province.

Rabbani thanked Turkey for its support towards Afghanistan in different areas, particularly police training and said Turkish continued help was important for Afghanistan.

The statement said both the sides discussed politics, security, economic, the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process, bilateral relations and the role of Organization of Islamic Cooperation during the meeting. (Pajhwok)

(12) MPs Want...

against Pakistan or any other country.

She termed his remarks as against the national interest and demanded the judicial organs investigate Gilani's statement.

Another Meshrano Jirga member Juma Din Giyanwal said: "Gilani is Afghanistan's enemy. I want the president and security institutions to arrest him."

Rahmatullah Achakzai, another lawmaker, said: "Gilani is ISI's agent and he should be investigated."

Some other lawmakers also assailed Gilani for his pro-Pakistani remarks and demanded investigation.

Senate Chairman Fzal Hadi Muslimyar said: "Gilani spoke against the national interest, we want the security institutions to probe Gilani for his remarks and we ask the president to be strict in such cases."

The Afghan government maintains no country would be allowed to use Afghanistan's soil against any other country. (Pajhwok)

(13) ALP Forces...

the ALP forces kept men and women in separate rooms. "They were with our women inside from 7pm to 11pm, then they come out and took us to another place. Later they came again with more friends and again sexually assaulted our women," he alleged.

Baqi said their women were assaulted until the morning and demanded justice from the government. He said ALP forces also took away their weapons, jewelry and money.

Kunduz police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hamid Hamidi confirmed the ALP forces had sexually assaulted two women of a family in Dasht-i-Archi district.

He said so far three ALP members had been detained in connection with the case and investigation was still underway.

ALP forces are accused for murders and armed robbery cases in many parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

Moit Opens Door of Modern Knowledge for Girls from Underserved Areas

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication's ICT for Girls programme has opened doors of IT and modern knowledge for future builders of Pakistan to become entrepreneurs and contributors to national development.

Ministry's spokesperson told APP that Around 226 computers Labs with allied facilities in educational institutions for girls especially in rural area of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are being established.

The labs are being established under present government's initiative called Prime Minister Education Reforms Programme which was launched with focus on uplifting standard of educational institutions in Islamabad.

In collaboration with Microsoft, teachers are primarily trained on Super Skills for 21st century in addition to the technical domains i.e. cloud computing, web designing, coding, Introduction to databases, basic computer programming, basics of software design and development, ministry official told APP.

202 teachers have also been placed at these institutions and it will help in making over 110,000 girl students "Computer Literate" studying in Islamabad's schools and bringing them at par with students elsewhere in the world.

Ministry of IT & Telecom through the USF recently signed an MOU with Huawei at the Mobile World Congress 2018 in Barcelona, under which they will cooperate in spheres of programme designing, training and sharing successful experiences in regard with broadband services, vertical public services and intelligent digital platforms.

It will help develop National ICT services execution strategy, support Joint Innovation center (JIC) for empowering women who are benefiting from the USF ICT for Girls programme, he added. According to Ministry of Infor-

mation Technology (MoST) the other objective of the programme, launched with joint effort of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Universal Service Fund (USF) and Microsoft, was to help prepare many young girls from underprivileged area of society, with a goal that they can get suitable occupations.

So far over 150 computer labs have already been established in the country under PBM's Women Empowerment Centers at a cost of Rs300 million and around 35,000 students are getting training annually.

ICTs for Girls has been playing an active role for knowledge enhancement and ultimately financial independence of women in the country.

Microsoft has been collaborating to provide training to young girls which has been empowering and accrediting them to participate in socio-economic development and bridging the gender digital divide.

Official sources at Capital Administration and Development Division while listing steps being taken said these labs would provide equitable opportunities to excel and spread benefits of telecom revolution to rural area students in ICT.

In first phase, Universal Services Fund, a subsidiary of Ministry of Information Technology would establish 107 Computer Labs in rural areas' educational institutions (primary level) with allied facilities and teaching faculty.

The sources said tentatively these labs shall be available from beginning new academic session.

Every effort is being made by Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad to impart quality education to children of ICT including schools situated in rural areas.

Regarding FDE's steps taken so far, the sources said Islamabad Capital Territory has been divided into six administrative sectors and an officer equivalent to BS-19 heads each administrative area.

Four out of these six areas are located in rural sectors. Since 279 out of 423 Institutions under FDE are located in Rural Setup, hence all initiatives are equally balanced in Rural and Urban sectors.

The sources said major share of 70 buses reached so far have been provided to Rural Sector Schools while 2147 White Boards & 303 Water Coolers with filters have been installed in educational institutions at cost of Rs. 21.4 million under rehabilitation/uplifting of 200 Institutions-Phase-II.

Renovation/Rehabilitation of physical infrastructure of 200 educational institutions under PMERP in ICT costing Rs. 2742 million is in process whereas Rs.1000 million has been sanctioned for the scheme. In phase-III, the remaining institutions will be upgraded and missing facilities if any shall be provided whose cost estimation is in process through Project Director (phase II) of PMERP. (Monitoring Desk)

Citizens of Turkmenistan Actively Voting At Polling Station in Baku

ASHGABAT - Turkmen citizens in Baku are actively voting in the elections of Mejlis (parliament) members, members of the Khalk-Maslakhaty and the Gengesh, the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Azerbaijan told Trend March 25. Today, on March 25, 2018 in Baku, at the Embassy of Turkmenistan, polling station No. 1 was opened for the voting of Turkmen citizens temporarily and permanently residing in Azerbaijan.

Voting began at 07:00 and will last until 19:00 Baku time.

As of 11:00, more than 60 percent of voters took part in the elections.

Around 2,604 polling stations operate in the country and 39 polling stations were established at diplomatic missions of Turkmenistan abroad, including in Azerbaijan.

Moreover, on March 25, the country is holding elections for members of local government and self-government bodies (HalkMaslahaty and Gengesh). (Trend)