

(1) Danish Visits ...

invited the leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to capital Kabul.

In the meantime, Hekmatyar said his party joined peace process to rescue the country from the current situation and help in the development of Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar also added that fighting is not an operation since no group or individual can achieve power through violence.

In other parts of his speech, Hekmatyar said Hezb-e-Islami party is committed to women's rights in the light of the Islamic values and will work to defend the right of the women.

Hekmatyar arrived in Laghman province on Wednesday and months after a peace agreement signed with the Afghan government.

The signing of the peace agreement also resulted into the exclusion of Hekmatyar's name from the sanctions list of the United Nations Security Council. (KP)

(2) ADB to Invest...

million USD.

"The Solar Park project in Nangarhar will produce at least 100 megawatts of electricity. The Asian Development Bank also will help us in technical assessments of the project," he said.

The Asian Development Bank said at the Brussels Summit it would grant 878\$ million USD in aid to Afghanistan which will be invested in different projects in the country up to 2020. (Tolonews)

(3) Canberra ...

mines will be helpful for Afghanistan which is rich in natural resources," said economy ministry spokesman Suhrah Bahman.

The statements come a week after Turnbull visited Kabul where he held discussions on issues of common interest with the Afghan leadership.

"We have the fourth largest development assistance program here. Internationally, which focuses particularly on women and girls, on education, on building capacity of Afghan farmers and also those communities that are most vulnerable," said Feakes.

Canberra is also set to provide 320 million Australian dollars in aid to Afghanistan until the end of 2020.

"You have challenges that Australia has, dry land farming is one of those and we have endowments that we have, mining resources, so I think there is a lot of scope for cooperation and partnership," added Feakes.

Last month, President Ashraf Ghani also visited Australia where he signed two agreements with the Australian government on development programs and mining.

Currently Australia keeps 270 soldiers in Afghanistan who are deployed in Kabul and Kandahar provinces. (Tolonews)

(4) Senators Urge...

also urged honest fight against terrorism and said accusing foreign forces of being dishonest in dealing with the Afghanistan's challenges. "They tell the thief to loot and advise the home owner to be careful, unfortunately they have not been honest in the fight against terrorism and drugs."

Meanwhile, Omar Zwak, the spokesman for Helmand governor, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the deployment of foreign forces in Helmand would help the Afghan forces turn tide on the Taliban.

"The Afghan forces needed foreign forces' support in the past as well, when they provided air support to the Afghan forces, but the security situation in Helmand has worsened so they would cooperate with the Afghan ground forces," he added. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan, Pakistani ...

Office spokesman said.

Sadiq expressed condolences to the Afghan side over the loss of precious human lives in recent terrorist attacks on Sardar Dawood Khan Hospital in Kabul and the Afghan National Army base in Balkh.

He also stressed the need for promoting trade and enhancing people-to-people contacts. He took the opportunity to extend an invitation to the Meshrano Jirga chairman to visit Pakistan. Both Ibrahim and Muslimyar praised Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan refugees for more than three decades. The two sides agreed on the need for joint counterterrorism efforts.

The visiting team includes Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Akram Khan Durrani, Mir Hasil Khan Baziqo, Mehmoos Khan Achakzai, Awais Leghari, Naveed Qamar, Shafiqat Mehmood, Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, Aftab Sherpao, Sahibzada Tariqullah and GG Jamal. (PR)

(6) MoIC Strikes ...

the head of the Journalist's Safety Commission.

NAI has termed Hekmatyar's view point on media as an old and extremist view.

NAI says that Hekmatyar does not believe in democracy, press freedom and will try to put pressure on the media.

"We need to make every political party accountable and responsible to protect the gains we made at the cost of our blood over the past fifteen years - to honor them and respect them," said press freedom ambassador Nader Naderi.

"Mr. Hekmatyar has no idea about the changes that have come to the country, because a person who has hidden himself inside caves in the mountains is not in touch with the conditions of life over the past twenty years in society, therefore he needs to study this," said journalist Sanjar Suhail.

According to NAI, last year, thirteen journalists were killed in Afghanistan, which was declared the second deadliest country in the world for journalist after Syria. They said government needs to make sure no group is allowed to pressurize the media.

(7) Trump Restored ...

On April 7, the United States conducted a missile strike against the Syrian government's Ash Sha'irat airbase, a step which, according to US President Donald Trump was a response to the alleged April 4 chemical weapon attack in Idlib, an incident which the White House blamed on Damascus without providing evidence. Syrian government denied the allegations, reminding that the country's chemical weapons were destroyed under the supervision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) after the 2013 sarin gas incident in east Ghouta.

On April 13, US military dropped the -22,000pound GBU43- Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province targeting a tunnel complex which, according to the US Central Command, was used by Daesh's local affiliate. The MOAB, dubbed the "Mother of All Bombs," is the largest non-nuclear bomb developed by the United States and had not been used in combat before the Nangarhar operation. (Sputnik)

(8) Nursery Owners ...

build up their own capacities in this regard and eventually meet the demands of the public.

"The main problem is importing low-quality saplings. If it is stopped, we can increase our production to meet the market demand," said Zainuddin Noor, head of the Nursery Owners National Institution.

According to the institution, currently large and small nurseries are active in 26 provinces in the country and they produce thousands of certified saplings every year. (Tolonews)

(9) Azizi Banks ...

and other private institutions to donate blood to those who are in need. Dr. Rasooli also emphasized that it is medically recommended that every person should donate blood at least twice in a year in order to prevent themselves from various illnesses.

Dr. Enayatullah Hashemi - Director of National Blood Bank warmly welcomed Azizi Bank's initiatives of launching such an inspiring campaign.

Post the opening ceremony, huge number of bank's employees gathered in length at the registration counters which led to a sense of motivation for customers as well.

As per the reports from the National Blood Bank, approximately 000 ,60 CCs of blood were collected by the time the campaign was over.

It is noteworthy to mention that Azizi Bank is the leading financial institution in Afghanistan and having a concrete plan of corporate social responsibility program aimed at supporting the society at large. (PR)

(10) Human Rights ...

the AIHRC said that prosecution of those who committed human rights violations was also necessary.

"The culture of impunity must end in Afghanistan and anyone who is guilty should be held accountable," Samar said.

This comes after Hekmatyar's return to Afghanistan a few days ago. On Saturday he addressed a public gathering for the first time in about 20 years.

Speaking to his supporters in Laghman province he urged them to forget the past but he did not express any regret over his deeds during the civil war. (Tolonews)

(11) Historical Sites,...

struction of the bridge was planned by the Information and Culture Department. Work on the link would be launched once the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) provided funds.

He said 22 historical sites were registered with his department. There are more historical monuments in other parts of the province but they have neither been surveyed nor registered for lack of funds.

Saqibyar urged donors, particularly AKTC and the central government to pay more attention to the protection of historical sites in Badakhshan. Syed Hussain, another information and culture official, said eight historical sites were under threat. They have been dug up and the artifacts sold abroad during more than three decades of war in the country. (Pajhwok)

(12) Weapons ...

also executive director of Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan (JIA).

Meanwhile, the gathering was called symbolic by a number of people. Syed Mustafa, a former mujahid, told Pajhwok Afghan News the jihad was being used as a tool. "No one asks about the children of martyrs, Mujahidin who lost their hands and legs are confined to homes."

He added that some individuals exploited their role in jihad to grab cushy jobs and other privileges. Some political experts also said the benefits of jihad had not been passed on to the common people. (Pajhwok)

(13) Sher Khan ...

neglecting the road.

Some residents of Kunduz also accused the Public Works Department of negligence in protection of the road.

Haji Mnasoor, a resident of Kunduz city, and a driver, said, "Sher Khan Bandar-Kunduz road has damaged at many parts but the Public Works Department is paying no attention."

He said there was no truck scale installed to prevent overloading and further worsening of the road's condition.

However, Eng. Burhanuddin

Shinwari, Kunduz public works director, said the road was constructed 15 years ago and they had planned to repair it. (Pajhwok)

(14) Over 40 ...

killed and eight others wounded," the ministry said, as quoted by Xinhua news agency. Afghanistan has been facing instability for many years, with government troops fighting against Islamic extremists and terror organizations. (Sputnik)

(15) Afghan Forces ...

officials but in majority of such attacks the ordinary civilians are targeted.

This comes as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its latest report regarding civilian casualties, stating that around 715 civilians were killed during the first three months of 2017.

According to UNAMA, the Anti-Government Elements caused 62 per cent of civilian casualties - 1,353 civilian casualties (447 dead and 906 injured), reflecting a five per cent increase compared to the same period in 2016.

The UN mission also added it recorded a 12 per cent increase in civilian casualties caused by pressure-plate improvised explosive devices - 218 civilian casualties (86 dead and 132 injured). (KP)

(16) Children ...

He claimed pupils at the Haqqani seminary were given military training and were prepared as suicide bombers. "We were shown videos in which Americans rape Afghan women and behead innocent people. It would provoke us to carry out a suicide attack right now."

Haq also made his mind to become a suicide bomber. "One day, I was called to a dark room where some men were sitting. They told if I want to go to the Heaven, if I want my family, relatives and friends to be proud of me, then go and carry out a suicide attack."

Poised for the attack, Haq said he was given a milk-like syrup and was told to use the medicine until he carried out the suicide attack. "I was given the medicine and told to go home in Ghazni and spend some days with family. I was told to go Zan Khan district from home and contact a person named Mubariz there."

Haq returned home and told his family that he had gone to Pakistan for religious education. At home, he would use the medicine every day. But his body started aching after the syrup had finished. Then he decided to go to Zan Khan district and meet Mubariz, but his family did not allow him to go to Zan Khan because they had realized his plan.

Haq said his brother took him to hospital and after treatment he felt well. He said now he was very happy that he had not committed the atrocity. However, he said had risked the wrath of Taliban. He said the Taliban were searching for him and would kill him if captured.

To a question, he said, he could not trust the government as well. He said he had many times sent elders to the Taliban to ask them to pardon him and the rebels had promised they would not harm him, but he was skeptical. Abdul Haq said his brother was in Dubai and he also wanted to go the UAE for work.

Thousands of youth like Abdul Haq have been lured from home to the war with promises of reward in this world and hereafter during the past 15 years.

Unregistered seminaries Deputy Haj and Auqaf Minister Daiul Haq Abid said there were a total of 160000 seminaries and mosques across the country and of the seminaries, 49000 were registered with the ministry.

He said terrorism and extremism was imported to Afghanistan and it was possible some seminaries in remote parts were involved in

promoting terrorism but the issue had not been noticed in government controlled areas. Abid said two departments had been created to work for prevention of seminary students from indulging in terrorist learning. He said an institute had been established for prayer leaders. He said imams were trained at the institute before being appointed at mosques. "This is very important for dealing with extremist ideology. He said Islamic scholars of the world had declared suicide attacks illegitimate.

Justice Ministry

Justice Ministry official Abdul Majeed Ghanizada said the law of officers and sergeants banned the recruitment of persons below the legal age of 18 years. He said if someone found guilty of recruiting underage individuals, he/she could face jail sentence from six months to one year.

He said the parliament had also approved a draft law to ban the recruitment of child soldiers in the security institutions of the country. The draft law, consisting of seven articles, was approved in November 2014.

Ministry of Interior denies underage recruits in police and army ranks

Mol acting spokesman Najibullah Danish said underage recruits had been removed from the police and military ranks two years ago. He said ID card, education certificates and physical appearance of a recruit was being checked by experts as part of the recruitment process. There are no underage recruits in our ranks, say Taliban

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Taliban's policies and laws banned the recruitment of child soldiers.

"No one is allowed to recruit children because it creates moral issues. We don't let persons whose beard is not grown enter our ranks."

In its 2016 report, the Human Rights Watch organization had accused the Taliban of recruiting child soldiers in their ranks.

A 2015 survey by an international organization found child recruits in the Afghan forces, especially in the local police force in Uruzgan, Kunar, Kunduz, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces.

The survey also claimed a number of security forces commanders sexually abused child recruits and called the Afghan government's efforts in this regard as insufficient. (Pajhwok)

(17) 11 Rebels ...

foreign forces in Yakhchal area on Sunday morning.

He said three HMMWVs, a ranger pick-up, four motorcycles and some weapons belonging to the militants were destroyed in the airstrikes.

Khpalwak said the HMMWVs were recently captured by the Taliban from Afghan forces and used them against the government.

Few days earlier, the Taliban used two Afghan National Army (ANA) ranger pick-ups in a bloody attack on an Afghan military base in northern Balkh province. (Pajhwok)

(18) Bridegroom...

their vehicle was targeted by the enemies. We urge government to take care of security on highways," said Nadira Nahrenwal, a civil society activist and a member of the dead groom's family.

Meanwhile Baghlan provincial council criticized security forces and said that Baghlan police must stop motorists from using the road when clashes are underway.

The head of Baghlan provincial council Asadullah Shahbaz said the deaths were due to Baghlan police's negligence.

"The security forces must stop passengers from driving through areas where clashes are going on," Shahbaz said. Baghlan police also confirmed the death of the two civilians

during a clash with the Taliban. "A vehicle was targeted by the Taliban and civilians were killed and wounded and two Taliban members were also killed by the security forces," police Chief Akramuddin Sare said.

The victims and family members have called for justice. (Tolonews)

(19) Pakistani and....

the remote districts f Ghor province.

The ISIS loyalists killed over 30 civilians after abducting them in this province last year and abducted 6 more civilians few days later. (KP)

(20)Russia Backs...

tests in exchange for the suspension of U.S.-South Korean military drills near the DPRK) as a starting point for political negotiations," the ministry said.

Nevertheless, no common solution was made at Friday's meeting, according to the statement. (Xinhua)

(21)May Expects...

void that would dawn on March 2019 ,30, would hurt Britain much more than the others.

But Juncker, quoted on Sunday by Germany's FAS newspaper, highlighted growing fears that the two sides are talking past each other, raising a significant risk of negotiations collapsing. (Reuters)

(22)EU to Discuss...

discussing the free trade deal May wants until they see what has been called "sufficient progress" on agreeing those key withdrawal terms.

In reaction to the summit outcome, Antonio Tajani, president of the European Parliament, said, "For Parliament, 'orderly withdrawal' means, above all, finding a quick solution to the problem of EU citizens resident in the UK and British citizens resident in the EU." (Xinhua)

(23)ASEAN Leaders...

end of their summit. "We urged (the DPRK) to immediately cease all actions that violate its international obligations and contravene U.N. Security Council resolutions," the leaders said.

The leaders reaffirmed the importance of compliance with international law and the full implementation of all relevant UN security Council resolutions.

The leaders also reiterated their support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and "for the concerned parties to exercise restraint in order to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

"We strongly urged (the DPRK) to comply with these resolutions and acknowledged the importance to exercise self-restraint and called on all parties to exert collective efforts in the interest of maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and the world," the leaders said. (Xinhua)

(24)Trump to...

Chinese President Xi Jinping. "There is nothing right now facing this country and facing the region that is a bigger threat than what is happening in North Korea," the White House chief of staff said.

Priebus said the planned conversations were prompted by the "potential for nuclear and massive destruction in Asia" and eventually in the United States. (Reuters)

(25)Iran, South ...

SF6 purification devices from South Korea, and KEPCO will also launch energy-saving system in Iran and implement an experimental project.

South Korea offered 25 billion U.S. dollars aid for infrastructure investment in Iran last May. (Xinhua)

(26)Germany's Merkel ..

Academy in the southern suburbs of Bonn. German authorities had previously expressed concern the school might be used to spread fundamentalist ideology. (AP)