

(1) Asia to...

would be practically launched in a couple of days and peoples of these countries would see the project being implemented. The president urged a more common vision and closer cooperation for regional connectivity and economic integration. (Pajhwok)

(2) Uruzgan ...

Obaidullah Barakzai, who represents Uruzgan in the lower house, expressed his concern about the increasing insecurity in various parts of the country and said: "Unfortunately roads of the Uruzgan capital remain blocked over the past 37 days and in four districts over the past one year by Taliban."

Speaking at the house session, the lawmaker said the issue to eliminate militants blocking highways had been shared with the government several times, but no practical action could not taken so far.

"Based on a deal, parts of Uruzgan and Helmand provinces are being handed over to Taliban. The conflict in the two provinces is over uranium deposits and narcotics, why the government is silent about the issue, it is really questionable," Barakzai said, without providing details.

About a number of policemen who recently defected to Taliban in Uruzgan, the MP said: "The province would collapse to Taliban if security forces do not launch operations in-time."

He asked the house administrative board to summon the interior minister, the acting defence minister and the acting National Directorate of Security (NDS) head to respond to the ongoing problems in Uruzgan.

A number of other lawmakers also complained about the deteriorating security situation in the country and asked relevant organs to take decisive action for improving the situation.

A lawmaker from Herat province, Nazir Ahmad Hanafi, said: "Terror activities, kidnappings and blasts are increasing in Herat by each passing day, we don't know why but people are worried and are forced to leave the country."

Sakhi Mashwani from from Kunar province also expressed concern about the security situation and called for summoning security officials to answer questions about their performance.

Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahim said security forces besieged in Uruzgan should be rescued and militants threatening the province should be eliminated as soon as possible.

He ordered the house internal security and defense commission to investigate the issue and summon security officials and stress finding a solution to reopening of Uruzgan roads and eliminating militants on highways. (Pajhwok)

(3) 277 Detained...

areas of Kabul city. He said 12 detainees faced murder charges, 63 robbery, 13 carried illegal weapons, 22 caused injuries to others, 55 sold and trafficked drugs and 53 were involved in moral crimes.

Dozens of kilograms of narcotics and alcoholic beverages have been recovered from the detainees, he said.

Rahimi said police had seized six pistols and Kalashnikovs, some bullets and a number of magnetic bombs. He added 162 persons involved in street harassment had also been detained and were released after a guarantee. (Pajhwok)

(4) Enemies and ...

as the acting Intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS) Chief by issuing a decree last week.

Masoom Stanikzai was the last nominee for the Ministry of Defense who was rejected by the Afghan lawmakers following his introduction to the parliament house.

The National Directorate of Security, the key intelligence agency of the country got an acting chief following the resignation of Rahmatullah Nabil last year. (KP)

(5) World Should ...

Ashraf Ghani would be imple-

mented and that government will hang those sentenced to death.

"It's many years that we are at war against insurgency. The international community was here for 13 or 14 year, on different levels with us, and while they were here and now they are not here we are still facing insurgency," he said.

"How should we forgive those who are killing our people, 64 people from one organization, those who attacked a bank and killed our leader?" he asked referring to the recent Kabul bombing and an attack in Nangarhar a few years ago.

Anwar's comments come after six terrorists were executed by hanging at Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul on Sunday morning on President Ashraf Ghani's orders. A number of international organizations however criticized the move.

Anwar meanwhile emphasized the need for the execution of other insurgents already on death row.

"If we do not act on the orders of religion and the law for the correction of our society, our situation will get worse," he added. It is believed that dozens of insurgents, sentenced to death, are in prison. However, government sources have indicated that more executions are to come.

You can watch the whole interview at 9pm local time (Wednesday, May 11) on TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(6) CASA-1000 ...

if achieved as envisioned would provide much-needed revenue to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and much-needed energy to South Asia.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday said work on the CASA-1000 power project would be launched on Thursday in Tajikistan.

Under the CASA-1000, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan will sell 1300 megawatts of electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan (300MW to Afghanistan and 1000 MW to Pakistan.)

Pakistan will pay to Afghanistan transit fee for the 670 kilometre of line passing via Afghanistan and will also pay another \$40 million as annual tax, which would contribute to the Afghanistan revenue.

The major project would be inaugurated on Thursday by leaders of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan in Batosh area of Tursunzoda City in Tajikistan, the foreign ministry said in the statement.

Abdullah, at the head of a high level delegation, left for Tajikistan to participate in the inauguration ceremony, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Light Being ...

Ghani's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashimi on Wednesday said: "To prevent a technical issue from becoming a political issue, President Ghani has decided to assign a commission to assess the issue from a technical point of view and to address the concerns of political leaders and people over whether this decision is right or wrong," said Sayed Zafar Hashemi, the deputy spokesman for Ghani.

This comes after government also pledged to give 300 Megawatt electricity to Bamyan, following the recent outcry over the planned rerouting of the line.

But the enlightening movement, which has carried out a campaign opposing the rerouting from Bamyan through Salang, has accused government of discriminating against people living in central Afghanistan.

The enlightenment movement has said this plan is not acceptable.

"This is national treason. With this they are taking a part of Afghanistan out of the master plan and it is part of the systematic historical oppression and we should stand against this oppression. The promise that they are giving [Bamyan] electricity through other routes is false. This promise is not practical," said Assadullah Saadati, a member of the movement.

Government has said however that the Salang route is shorter compared to Bamyan and it will cost less to complete and said that moving the line through

Bamyan will delay the project by two years.

The enlightening movement however disagrees with this.

"This is a trap, they don't consider people's awareness. Distance from Sheberghan to Pul-e-Khumri is 300 kilometers. The primary phase and bidding process of the project has not been started yet and the primary phase of the project will be completed within one year," said Saadati.

The 500 Megavolt electricity line from Turkmenistan is not part of the TUTAP power transmission project - this imported electricity is only for Afghanistan, said government officials.

TUTAP meanwhile is a project through which electricity will be transferred from Turkmenistan through Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Pakistan. However, the project has not been implemented.

A number of political analysts meanwhile have blasted government for not standing by its decisions.

"The government, from an administrative point of view, is faced with confusion and is suffering from a lack of plan and it constantly changes its pledges and views," said Khalil Roman, a political analyst.

There is fear that donors will back down from funding the project, if the dispute over the route continues. (Tolonews)

(8) Kapisa Police ...

provincial police headquarters. As a result of the investigation, some officials were detained on charges of corruption in logistics and fuel related issues and were sent to Kabul for further interrogation.

MoI anti-corruption director Habib Rahman Sahar told Pajhwok Afghan News corruption cases of Kapisa police headquarters had been referred to the AGO.

However, he said most allegations about corruption in the police headquarters were false and the embezzlement in fuel contracts was not on high scale.

"Anyway, the issue is under investigation and the court would make a decision soon," he said. Kapisa police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim Faiq said the detained officers included logistics director and fuel, technical and intelligence managers.

He said the MoI had ordered re-investigation into the corruption issue in order to find the main problem because recent investigations found that 40,000 liters of fuel had been stolen.

"There are many hands involved in the matter, we don't afraid of anyone, we would enforce the law without facing any obstacles," Faiq said.

He called on relevant organs to take action against those who falsely alleged widespread corruption in the Kapisa police headquarters.

"We are facing local and foreign mafia circles who hatch conspiracies against us and violate laws," he added. The police chief said he had also been accused of corruption without any evidence.

Faiq said the security situation had improved in many areas of Kapisa and people could fearlessly travel after his appointments as the police chief.

Kapisa civil society institute head, Haji Hashmatullah Safi, said investigations into corruption issues should be transparent. He said corruption should be seriously probed and eliminated in all government offices. (Pajhwok)

(9) Giyan Raid ...

demonstrated in the raid in the Giyan district of southeastern Paktika Province.

In the counterterrorism operation targeting Al-Qaeda operatives, the partnered team freed Ali Haider Gilani, son of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who had been held hostage since he was kidnapped three years ago in Pakistan.

"We will work with the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan to return him home safely after he receives a medical evaluation. Working alongside our Afghan partners, we will continue to make it clear there is no safe haven for terrorists in Afghani-

stan," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) 5 Persons ...

a resident of the district, Mansoor, said the five people were freed in cooperation with Taliban. He said Taliban had also arrested eight abductors and a Taliban court would decide their fate. (Pajhwok)

(11) Presidential ...

them that this person has kidnapped my brother, but they said that you don't have proof and we cannot arrest this person," Aimal said.

"After 14 days, the department for the fight against major crimes telephoned me and said they have arrested the person. The investigation shows that the SIM card of the PPS guard was activated in my brother Hamid's phone six days after his kidnapping and the department of major crimes at the Ministry of Interior arrested him. But he denies [his involvement]," Aimal added.

He said his mother has become sick in the wake of the kidnapping. Aimal said the PPS guard's father and a colleague also need to be investigated in connection with the case. "I say that the father and a colleague of this person should be investigated, who might know about this kidnapping. They tell me that on what proof you say this? When a cell phone of a kidnapped person is found on someone, isn't this proof?" asked Aimal.

Security sources meanwhile confirmed a PPS guard was arrested in connection with the kidnapping and is in NDS custody.

"Crime is an individual act. This person was in a lower rank of guards. His crime has not been proven so far, but there is a claim. PPS has helped the judicial organization and has left the responsibility of the investigation up to them. We respect their (judicial organizations) decision, whatever it may be," said Sayed Zafar Hashemi, the deputy spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani.

Meanwhile, the family of the kidnapped man has urged government to secure Hamid's release. (Tolonews)

(12) Kabul Residents ...

while talking to a number of national assembly and provincial council members and Kabul city representatives, that corruption, oppression and injustice has become a culture in Kabul city. He also said the current structure of the Kabul municipality is not responsive to the needs of the city and the current situation must be fundamentally changed.

Ghani said that in the past 14 years a lot of money within the administration has been misused but that from now on, no one was to waste money.

Faced with mounting criticism, municipal officials have appealed to the residents of Kabul to work with them. "Unless people cooperate with us, the problems will not decrease. In most of Kabul people even throw their building rubble in the garbage and our staff must dispose of this waste. Our fundamental work is transfer garbage but we are faced with such challenges," said Nisar Ahmad Habibi Ghorri, head of the cleaning department of Kabul municipality.

One MP, Mariam Kofi however also blasted Ghani and said: "The president, instead of making promises, must put his words into practice. This municipality is corrupt - we don't have a municipality."

People also believe that land grabbing has not stopped in Kabul, along with the fact that there are no garbage recycling plants in the city and nor is there a mayor.

"We were very happy when they delivered us promises but unfortunately these promises were not practiced," said Abdullah, a Kabul resident.

"It was a municipality but the government changes it to a corrupt institution," said Aryan Rasouly, another resident.

"Our high ranking officials move around in vehicles and they cannot understand peoples problems. Today, everywhere in Kabul, there is a problem with traffic jams, flooded streets and

other issues," said Mirza Mohammad, another Kabul resident.

Additional problems cited was the dramatic increase of vehicles in the city, the contamination of groundwater and poor air quality which poses a serious health risk to residents.

"Our environmental issues are increasing day to day and if these issues are not addressed diseases caused by a polluted environment will increase. Environment issues must not be tackled as political issues, so a responsible and capable mayor must be appointed," Ahmad Siyar Muhibzada, a member of Environment Watch said. (Tolonews)

(13) Ghani Discusses...

Ghani's visit would go a long way in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and promised all possible assistance to the war-torn neighborhood.

Earlier, Ghani arrived in Tajikistan on a two-day visit official visit. He met his Tajik counterpart, prime minister, parliament speaker and other senior officials on cooperation in different fields. (Pajhwok)

(14) MoPW Signs ...

consider and maintain quality work.

He said the road would connect Tarakhil, Deh Yahya, Pacha Sahib and Painmar areas and resolve traffic and transport problems.

Malak Khan Sayed, a public representative from Deh Sabz district, happy over the project, said the road would benefit around 10,000 families. (Pajhwok)

(15) Ex-Kandahar ...

awarded three years imprisonment and the remaining two officials were acquitted for a lack of evidence, Ghorzang said.

Kandahar governor's spokesman, Samim Khpalkw, confirmed the cases of a number of education officials accused of corruption had been referred to the attorney office.

He said no government departments, including the governor's house, had any right to interfere in court's decisions and corruption cases would be addressed based on the country's laws.

Haji Sayed, a resident of Kandahar province, welcomed the special anti-corruption court's ruling and said such measures proved that the local government was honest in fighting corruption.

Such measures were a warning for other government officials to avoid corruption, he said. (Pajhwok)

(16) 17 Taliban...

was destroyed during an airstrike in Darqad district of northeastern Takhar province, MoD said.

According to MoD, the Afghan forces also discovered and defused a landmine along with an Improvised Explosive planted by the Taliban militants in Aqcha district of Jawzjan province. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(17) Afghan Army ...

continue to stage attacks against civilian and state targets. Radical groups are trying to spread their influence over Afghanistan, as well as over the neighboring countries. (Sputnik)

(18) British Business ...

Marshall also commented on the uncertainty around the referendum result, which has manifested itself in a weakening of the British pound and a reduction in hiring in some business sectors, notably the financial sector, from March onwards, according to recruitment consultancy Morgan McKinley. (Xinhua)

(19) Turkey Vows ...

launchers. Turkey's border province of Kilis has come under rocket attacks from northern Syria since mid-January, in which 20 people were killed and 70 others injured. (Xinhua)

(20) Britain Raises...

in 1998, remains severe. The threat from international terrorism to Britain also remains unchanged at severe, meaning an attack is highly likely. It has

been at this level since August 2014. (AFP)

(21) UN Commission...

have been wounded or killed in these attacks, it added.

"These incidents demonstrate the undeniable fact that this conflict has repeatedly exacted its heaviest toll on civilians," Paulo Pinheiro, chair of the commission, was cited as saying.

The commission called on all parties to cease attacking civilian areas.

"Accountability must be part of the process of returning Syria to peace. Until the culture of impunity is uprooted, civilians will continue to be targeted, victimized and brutally killed," the statement stressed. (Xinhua)

(22) German Police ...

that arise from this must be taken very, very seriously -- that is something that the attacks in Paris and Brussels have also made clear to us," the CDU politician said. (Xinhua)

(23) 15 Al-Shabaab...

added that the situation in the area is calm and is under the joint forces' control at the moment. Al-Shabaab militants did not comment on the latest military victory by government officials so far.

Somali National Army backed by AMISOM troops captured Galdad town on April 29 from the militant group without any resistance. (Xinhua)

(24) Olympics...

there are no restrictions on travel or trade with countries affected by Zika outbreaks but advises pregnant women not to travel to those regions.

Attaran's position is not shared by Olympic and global health authorities, who insist the Aug. 5-21 games will not be derailed by the virus. The International Olympic Committee, which follows the WHO's advice, said it has no plans to relocate or postpone the games. (AP)

US to Use Bulgarian Military Bases for Another 10 Years: Defense Official

SOFIA - The defense cooperation agreement, according to which the United States can use Bulgarian military bases, has been extended for another ten years, Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Defense Dimitar Kyumurdzhiev said on Wednesday. The agreement between Bulgaria and the United States, signed at the end of April 2006, shall continue to be in force unless terminated by either party with one year's written notice. According to the agreement, the United States may deploy defense equipment and no more than 2,500 personnel to the Novo Selo Training Range, the Aytos Storage facility, Bezmer Air Base, and Graf Ignatievo Air Base.

The United States may use the facilities for activities such as security cooperation exercises, refueling of aircraft, and temporary maintenance of vehicles. (Xinhua)

Vietnamese PM to Visit Russia

HANOI - Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc will visit Russia later this month, his first overseas tour after taking office in April, the state media reported on Wednesday.

Phuc will pay a visit to Russia and attend a high-level conference in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations on May 16-20, Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA said.

During his stay in Russia, Phuc will hold talks with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev and meet with chairpersons of the Russian Federal Council and the State Duma.

After that, Phuc will meet with Vladimir Putin while attending the ASEAN-Russia commemorative summit in Sochi, a Black Sea resort, on May 19-20, reported local Vietnamnet online newspaper.

Russian Prime Minister Medvedev visited Vietnam in 2015. Vietnam and Russia established diplomatic ties in 1950. (Xinhua)