

(1) No Doubts ...

said the government would use all-out resources for improving security in all parts of the country. The chief of army staff has assessed security situation of Badakhshan and would share his plan for improving security with the National Security Council (NSC) and needed decisions would be taken considering effective suggestions, he said.

Abdullah said the government wanted people to support their security forces for stability in Afghanistan.

The CEO also inaugurated construction of Baharak-Ashkasham highway during his trip to Badakhshan province.

Public works minister, Mahmud Baligh, said the construction of 108 kilometers Baharak-Ashkasham highway would take four years to complete. (Pajhwok)

(2) No Decision ...

have the opportunity to hear from allies during his upcoming foreign trip, which will include stops at the NATO summit and the gathering of G7 nations.

On the issue of additional troops, McMaster said: "The president has not made a decision yet on a course of action. What we have done which is what we have done in many cases on the North Korea problems for example, is we have consulted broadly across our government and with allies.

"The president wants to hear from our allies as well. This is a president who listens to its allies and partners who have an opportunity to do this at the NATO summit, who have an opportunity to do so at the G7 and so what we'll have at the end of this next few weeks here is an opportunity for a much more effective strategy for the problems set in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region more broadly."

He said however that the US had engaged in "highly successful" operations in Afghanistan against Daesh in recent weeks.

"Recently we have been engaged against ISIS (Daesh) in Afghanistan with highly successful operations there that you'll hear more about in a press conference at the Department of Defense in the near future.

"But what has happened in Afghanistan is the Afghan army has taken the brunt of the fight against these transnational terrorists and the Taliban and so we are working with our allies to figure out what more we can do to have a more effective strategy in Afghanistan. What are the options we can bring to the president to be more effective and meeting our objectives in Afghanistan and what more can we ask our allies to do what we're asking them now so this is going to be consistent with the president's guidance to us."

Previewing the trip at the daily White House briefing, McMaster said the visits to Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Vatican, Italy and Belgium will show the president's engagement with leaders around the world. He said the president will begin in Saudi Arabia.

"He will encourage our Arab and Muslim partners to take bold new steps to promote peace and to confront those from ISIS to Al-Qaeda to Iran to the Assad regime who perpetuate chaos and violence that has inflicted so much suffering throughout the Muslim world and beyond.

He will lead the first steps toward a stronger, more capable and more robust security partnership with our Gulf, Arab and Muslim partners.

And he will develop a strong, respectful message that the United States and the entire civilized world expects our Muslim allies to take a strong stand against radical Islamist ideology, an ideology that uses a perverted interpretation of religion to justify crimes against all humanity. He will call for Muslim leaders to promote a peaceful vision of Islam."

McMaster said: "America first didn't mean American alone ever I don't think and so what we have done is advance the president's agenda in national security by strengthening alliances by burden sharing. Americans don't have to do everything. Don't have to bankroll everything and

our allies and partners are grateful for I think the president's leadership in asking them to do more." (Tolonews)

(3) Power Supply ...

between security forces and the Taliban last week.

According to him, two power cables supplying 200 megawatts of power were damaged due to the gun-battles in Pul-i-Archin area of Kunduz.

The technical group of the power utility was able to reach to the area on Saturday after security of the area was ensured, he said.

He said the repairing process of the two lines would finish by the end of Saturday and the electricity supply to Kabul would restore to its normal condition.

The power line from Tajikistan passes through Kunduz, Baghlan and Parwan provinces before reaching Kabul.

Currently about 380MW of electricity is consumed in Kabul, of which 300MW of it is imported from Tajikistan and the rest is generated by Naghlo, Mahi Par and Sarobi hydropower dams, Wahidi said.

He said Kabul needed 700MW in cold weather and 450MW in warm weather. Electricity is intermittently distributed if sometimes people in Kabul face with shortage of power, Wahidi concluded. (Pajhwok)

(4) Taliban Cannot...

purged of the highway after seven-day offensive while another grand operation would be soon kicked off to eliminate the Taliban.

He said: "I want to assure the residents that the Taliban will never be able enter Kunduz City, the provincial capital, because we have chalked out a plan through which the entire Kunduz would be cleared of the Taliban in one month."

He said wound 2,000 families had been displaced as a result of recent fighting. The provincial government in coordination with charity organisation planned to provide these families with aid and assistance. As many as 466 families had already been provided with assistance, he added. On the other hand the residents of Kunduz still worried over the ongoing fighting and clashes.

Mansour, the resident of Kunduz, said high ranking official often made pledged to eliminate the militants and improved the security of the province but never implemented their promises. Faisal, another resident of Kunduz, said, the government took no effective step to press

Earlier, the Taliban captured Qala-i-Zal district and Kunduz-Khanabad highway. Security forces on Friday wrest back the Kunduz-Khanabad highway. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pak-Afghan...

meeting at Pakistan army headquarters.

"Border control and management, and measures to curb cross-border fire violations were also discussed," read the statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the trilateral meeting, the senior delegates discussed measures for improving military-to-military coordination and cooperation.

All sides also agreed to enhance frequency of bilateral interactions at multiple levels through different command and staff channels to foster an environment of mutual respect, trust, cordiality and cooperation.

This is the first ever trilateral meeting between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Resolute Support Mission which discussed the issue of Daesh in the region.

Daesh has a presence in Afghanistan which can be a threat for Pakistan also.

Earlier Pakistan army had said that it will not allow even a shadow of Daesh in Pakistan.

Resolute Support or Operation Resolute Support is a NATO-led train, advise, and assist mission consisting of over 13,000 troops in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which began on January 1, 2015. It is a follow-on mission to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) which was completed on December 28, 2014. (IRNA)

(6) Taliban...

game here in future," he alleged. Now youngsters cannot play cricket, football, volleyball or other sports in areas under Taliban control, according to Khan, who voiced concern at the curbs. Abdur Rahman, a resident of the Sulaimanzi area of Deh Yak district, said volleyball was a popular sport in their village but the Taliban recently prohibited them from playing it.

"We had a strong volleyball squad and competed with other teams, but the militants no longer allow any sporting activity in our neighbourhood," he lamented.

According to Rahman, the militant group has imposed a ban on all games in Deh Yak, Giro, Zana Khan, Rashidan, Ajiristan, Gilan, Qarabagh and Andar districts and some other areas of the province.

Mohammadullah, who hails from Ghazni City, said youths' interest in playing cricket had increased. "Parents of youths had complained to Taliban to ban the game so their children attend schools regularly."

But Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) head for Ghazni Ezatullah Mominyar said they had teams in Andar, Gilan, Qarabagh, Deh Yak, Zana Khan, Maqur, Aab Band districts, as well as other areas of the province.

"The Taliban may have banned the game in some areas under their control, but no one has so far complained to us," he said, adding the board planned to build a stadium in Ghazni in near future.

Fahim Amarkhel, the provincial police spokesman, said all types of games were played in areas under government control. Police would try to resolve the problem, he promised.

On the other hand, the Taliban denied banning sports in Ghazni. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said they had banned cricket in some villages after receiving complaints from residents.

"People complained to us that youths play cricket in the middle of the village. Subsequently, we told them to play the game in an open area outside the village," he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) MoFA Consular ...

MoFA says it has awarded the consular service contract to GRT due to security concerns and to facilitate citizens. On the other hand, applicants claim the process has become more complicated and their problems have multiplied.

GTR office is housed in an improper building in the Taimani neighbourhood of Kabul. The location is not safe and suitable for applicants.

The Pajhwok reporter, who visited the office, said many applicants from different provinces were there to process their documents. They had to wait in severe heat for their turns to submit or receive documents.

In addition to the improper location of GTR office with no facility for visitors, the company's staffers do not work from 11:0am to 2:0pm. Applicants have to wait for three hours.

Fatima, one of the visitors, grumbled: "In the past, our relatives would get their certificates stamped at the ministry in two days for 200 afghanis. But ever since it has been entrusted with the task, GTR has been charging each applicant 500 afghanis."

She claimed extra money was charged to give applicants facilities and accelerate the attestation of the documents, but GTR employees, guards and other staff misbehaved with them.

All applicants are confused and have to go up and down stairs to get their documents stamped, according to Fatima, who said referees were told to come back after three days.

She alleged the documents remained unprocessed for days. "We came after five day and had to wait in sizzling heat to receive our documents. However, our problem remained unaddressed."

Mumtaz, 70, another applicant, also resented the complicated and lengthy process of document verification. He submitted identity cards of his own and family

members along with other documents on March 30 for verification.

Tazkiras of his relatives were supposed to be returned on April 3, but he was unable to get back the documents even on April 10. "I live in the Khushal Khal area of Kabul. Apart from leaving work, I have to pay 100 to 150 afghanis in transport fare to reach this place to ask about my documents. But still I have not received my documents," he regretted. (Pajhwok)

(8) Officials ...

contractor is obliged to complete the project in four years period and must hire the local residents for the work performance.

Badakhshan is located in the northeastern parts of the country and is one of the remote provinces bordering China and Tajikistan.

In the meantime, the Minister of Public Works said negotiations are also underway for the construction of railway network from China to Afghanistan and the representative of China is expected to visit Afghanistan in the near future to hold talks regarding the project. (KP)

(9) US, China ...

Morning Post, he cited Afghanistan's trilateral cooperation mechanism with China and the United States for training young Afghan diplomats in Beijing and Washington.

The diplomat called Afghanistan a unique platform for cooperation, rather than competition, between China and the US, despite challenges and threats to regional peace and stability.

Mosazai opined that China, with a growing economic footprint in Afghanistan and in the region at large, could boost effort at reviving Afghanistan's position as a regional hub.

He acknowledged China and the US provided his country billions of dollars in economic aid, training, equipment and support for Afghanistan's national defence force.

US-China cooperation would help bring peace and economic prosperity to Afghanistan and in turn contribute to stability and economic development in the region and the world, he continued. (Pajhwok)

(10) Three Haqqani ...

parts of the province will be launched soon.

Local residents have also raised their voices and appealed to government to rid their province of insurgents.

Their concern comes amid on-going insurgent activity in the Zazai Aryoub, Dandepatan and Jani Khail districts in Paktia - areas that all border Pakistan. (Tolonews)

(11) Lawmakers...

Mohammad Iqbal Safi, a lawmaker from Kapisa province, said: "When Mujahidin liberated Kapisa province from occupation, Saleh was working in a showroom in Kabul. Saleh by accusing Hekmatyar wants to promote himself and such comments may pave the ground for clashes between different parties."

Obaidullah Barakzai, another lawmaker from Uruzgan province, also criticised Saleh's comment regarding Hekmatyar and said: "We will not allow anybody to seek the trial of HIA head. Some individuals in the government and outside the government involved in huge crimes and even burned hundreds of people inside a container."

He warned recalling the past would pave the way for future internal clashes and unrest, stressing such comments should be avoided in the future.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the conflict of four past decades resulted into destruction and divisions and media, civil society activists and political parties should not raise questions over the peace process.

He termed the success of peace talks with HIA a huge step and voiced on the people, activists, political parties and media to support peace process so that other militant groups could be encouraged to join the peace talks through an Afghan owned initiative. (Pajhwok)

(12) Inadequate ...

compared to the large population of the province.

"Around one million people live in Nimroz, whose Hajj quota is 157. Of them 31 are rejected every year for different reasons, with 126 travelling to Saudi Arabia or Hajj," he said.

Information from the department shows 1,613 people applied for Hajj this ongoing year. As per the provincial Hajj quota, some manage to offer Hajj and the rest have to wait for years.

The director said the issue had been shared with authorities concerned and all stakeholders involved, but they were told the Central Statistic Organisation (CSO) dealt with the subject.

Maulvizada added the CSO estimated the population of Nimroz at 103,000 based on a 30 years old survey. A fresh census has not been conducted to figure out the existing number of Nimroz residents.

He claimed the population of Zaranj, the provincial capital, had risen to 600,000. If a correct survey was conducted, he asserted, the population of Nimroz could hit the one million mark.

Maulvi Gul Ahmad Ahmadi, a provincial council member, said they had taken up the issue with President Ashraf Ghani during his recent trip to the province.

"The president pledged directing the religious affairs minister to increase the Hajj quota for Nimroz, but no positive action has been taken yet," he lamented.

Mohammad Nazar, 40, has applied for Hajj this year, but he thinks he will have to wait for years. Life is not trustworthy, according to the man, who is massively interested in visiting the holy land. "I don't have much money to buy the turn of other people."

In a clear departure from the quota, some residents of Nimroz purchase the turn of other people to offer Hajj. The price, according to them, is \$5,000 to \$6,000. (Pajhwok)

(13) Senior Academic ...

of central Logar province, Stanikzai was doing his doctorate at the Nangarhar University. He has written several research papers. (Pajhwok)

(14) 12 ISIS ...

air power, the police command added.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the report so far.

Nangarhar is among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups have recently increased their insurgency activities in some parts of the province during the recent years.

This comes as an anti-ISIS operation is underway in Nangarhar to eliminate the presence of ISIS affiliates in this province.

The Hamza operations were launched nearly one month ago in response to the growing threats posed by ISIS loyalists in Nangarhar province.

The US forces based in Afghanistan are also providing support to the Afghan forces during the operations, mainly involving airstrikes. (KP)

(15) 6 Rebels ...

Based on another report, insurgents attacked some security posts in Parchaman district of the province.

A military official, Noor-ul-Haq Khaliqi, told Pajhwok Afghan News rebels conducted coordinated attacks on some security check points in Tajgo and Barfishar areas of the district at around 3pm today.

The rebels faced stiff resistance from security forces, and as a result of retaliatory firing, six insurgents were killed and 10 others were wounded, he said, adding no security personnel suffered casualties in the clashes.

However, the Taliban have alleged capturing three villages--Guana, Wal and Lar Ghar--and a military centre of the government forces during the attack, saying they have also inflicted heavy casualties on government forces.

The group has denied any casu-

alties to the fighters. (Pajhwok)

(16) 2 Women ...

district of first Macro Ryan area. Police said the sticky bomb had been attached to a vehicle of Water Supply Department. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the incident. (Pajhwok)

(17) Ghee, Sugar, ...

sugar's rate increased from 2,220afis to 2,250afis and 16 litre of Shahista ghee from 1,100afis to 1,140afis.

He said low imports of ghee and sugar was the reason of high prices.

However, he said 50kg of Kazakhstani flour cost 1,180afis and 24kg of Pakistani rice 1,850afis, the same prices of last week's.

Haji Rahmatullah, a tea dealer in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 220afis and the same amount of African black tea 240afis, the same rates as of last week's.

Ehsanullah, who owns a grocery store in Taimani neighborhood, sold a 50kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 1,450afis and the same quantity of Pakistani sugar for 2,400afis and 24kg of Pakistani rice 2,200afis. He sold a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 270afis and the same quantity of African black tea for 290afis -- higher than wholesale prices.

Basir Ahmad, a jeweller in Lycee Mariam area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold increased from 2,200afis to 2,300afis while the price of same quantity of the Russia variety fell from 1,900afis to 1,800afis.

According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar was accounted for 68.10afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 638afis against last week's 67.66afis and 634afis respectively. (Pajhwok)

(18) G7 Financial...

"We reaffirm our fiscal and monetary policies have been and will remain oriented towards meeting our respective domestic policy objectives, using domestic instruments and we will not target exchange rates for competitive purposes," it said, underlining the importance of refraining from competitive devaluations. (Reuters)

(19) Brexit Represents...

country. But Ireland says the corporate tax rate remains and will remain a cornerstone of the country's industrial policy.

"This further reinforces the need for a broad tax base, large fiscal buffers, and continuing efforts to reinforce the dynamism of the domestic economy," IMF said. (Xinhua)

(20) UN Eyes...

meeting and Geneva meeting and enforcing the cease-fire is something fundamental and important for creating the suitable climates for serious talks and at the same time the cease-fire could never have continuity without political prospects and this is a very important issue," he noted. (Xinhua)

(21) AIIB Committed...

the AIIB.

"Our job is to work with you to promote the investment in infrastructure and other productive sectors," he said, adding that infrastructure investment was crucial to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

Expressing his view on ASEAN's future, Jin said he believed that the future for the ASEAN countries will be brighter and economic growth will be higher thanks to political and economic stability. (Xinhua)

(22) UK Labour ...

Commons. It means there won't be the usual checks and balances of democracy ... all those things go out the window."

A YouGov opinion poll for The Times newspaper, published on Wednesday, put Conservative support at 46 percent against Labour's 30 percent.

Labour will promise to renationalize rail and mail services and take some of the energy sector into public hands, betting a shift to the left will win over voters, according to a leaked copy of its draft manifesto, published this week. (Reuters)