

(1) Global Attention

it is a great burden on our shoulders," remarked Abdullah, who traveled to Herat on Tuesday to ascertain public concerns.

He opened an exhibition of domestic products before holding meetings with religious scholars, mujahidin leaders, martyrs' families, civil society activists, women and private sector representatives.

During his meeting with ulema, he called the role of scholars important in improving peace and security. Two messages of ulema might be more effective than 10 days of fighting by security forces in terms of peace, he remarked.

Yo end four decades of wars, the government was working on plans to ensure peace and stability in the country, the CEO said, pledging all possible efforts for prosperity of the people.

Ulema served as bridge between the people and the government, he observed, saying the scholars continued to raise their voices for national unity despite conspiracies form the enemy, he said.

The scholars hailed mosques and seminaries as centres of jihad, resistance and defence of Islamic values. They promised all-out cooperation with the government on peace and stability of the country.

They called threats to religious scholars, their assassination and blowing up of mosques major challenges from terrorist groups. They also asked the government to pay more attention to the security of ulema and mosques.

The CEO also met representatives of civil society institutes, athletes and youth. They asked Abdullah to give Herat an equitable share in management and civil services.

Youths' representatives urged decentralisation of power and empowerment of local organs, saying that centralisation of finance and administrative affairs had caused problems. They said people had to travel to Kabul even for minor things. Athletes requested the CEO for facilitating them to participate in national and international events. They also called for the construction of playgrounds in Herat.

In a meeting with Women Council members and businesswomen, Abdullah was asked to increase the number of lady doctors, give females a greater say in government affairs and provide them with financial services.

The CEO promised discussing their problems with the cabinet and seeking solutions in accordance with the law.

A number of traders, in a meeting with Abdullah, complained about corruption in customs, old tax systems and insecurity in the province. A technical team assessing Herat's problems would submit its report to the government soon, he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Help Govt.

warned Ibrahim. Abdul Wadud Paiman, a lawmaker from Kunduz province, said differences never served Afghanistan's interests and issues could not be solved through demonstrations and public gatherings.

Referring to Amrullah Saleh, he said: "Leader is one who shows patience and tolerance."

Haji Allah Gul Mujahid, a lawmaker from Kabul, said peace was the desire of every Afghan and no one should sabotage the peace process for personal interests.

He added if conspiracies were hatched against the successful peace agreement between the government and the Hezb-i-Islami (HIA), no other group would wish to join the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(3) Ghani Invited

Meanwhile, the White House said the international conference on terrorism and Daesh in Saudi Arabia was scheduled to take place next week.

US President Donald Trump will join heads of states and

representatives from 56 countries at the summit, the White House said, adding so far leaders of 20 countries had assured their participation in the event. (Pajhwok)

(4) US, NATO

as many as 10,000 new coalition forces could be heading into Afghanistan.

Roughly 9,000 U.S. service members are currently stationed in Afghanistan, conducting training and advising operations under the Resolute Support mission. A smaller number of US special operations units are also executing counterterrorism operations against the Taliban and a resurgent Islamic State. (Pajhwok)

(5) MoD Rejects

have a negative impact regarding image of the Defense officials among the Afghan people, insisting that any individual or entity having credible evidences regarding the misuse of nation's financial resources must contact the Ministry for further actions to be taken to curb the misuse of the state funds. (KP)

(6) Town Hall

been identified. The participants noted that dialogue meetings were effective in addressing community-related problems children faced in Afghanistan.

In 1994, Afghanistan committed to the protection of children's rights ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, many children still suffer from poverty, homelessness, abuse, neglect, preventable diseases as well as unequal access to education.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Afghan-German Cooperation has been working together with the Afghan government to promote the rule of law in Afghanistan.

Since 2003, the project Promotion of the Rule of Law (RoL) has been supporting the Afghan Ministry of Justice in its efforts to ensure access to justice for all citizens. (Pajhwok)

(7) Govt. Approves

procurement Commission with the meetings organized on weekly basis.

According to ARG Palace, around 2,500 contracts have been approved since the formation of the commission worth around 346 billion Afghanis.

The contracts have been approved after fully monitored by the domestic and international institutions including Special Inspector General for Afghanistan, Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, parliament and senate committee members, and some other institutions. (KP)

(8) IS Claims A

the entrance to the compound, said provincial governor Gulab Mangal.

As the attack unfolded, heavy gunfire could be heard from around the RTA building, which is close to the governor's compound

"Islamic State fighters are currently carrying out an attack inside the state broadcasting building in the city of Jalalabad," the movement's AMAQ news agency said in a statement on instant messaging service Telegram.

The three others were killed by security forces in the gun battle. Among the dead were four RTA employees, including a driver, a guard, and two technical personnel, as well as two policemen, according to Mangal.

Seventeen civilians and seven members of the security forces were wounded, he added.

The Afghan Journalists Safety Committee condemned the attack and said it was a violation of the rules of war that protect media as civilians.

The Taliban, who also have a strong presence in the region, denied responsibility.

Islamic State has recently been hit hard by U.S. air strikes and special forces operations.

The head of Islamic State in Afghanistan, Abdul Hassib,

was reported this month to have been killed in a joint Afghan-U.S. operation in Nangarhar at the end of April.

Islamic State has also claimed responsibility for a series of high-profile attacks in the capital, Kabul, including one in March on Afghanistan's largest military hospital. (Reuters)

(9) USAID Provides

contribution, WFP can purchase wheat flour from local millers thereby supporting the local economy while meeting food assistance needs of the most vulnerable," said Kathryn Stevens, USAID Acting Mission Director. "USAID, the World Food Programme and the Government of Afghanistan remain committed to fighting hunger and malnutrition in Afghanistan."

In addition, USAID is working with 15 United Nations and NGO partners, as well as the State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs to provide immediate relief and assistance to vulnerable Afghans affected by the complex emergency. So far in FY17, USAID's Office of Humanitarian Assistance has programmed \$70 million to support the acute needs of conflict and natural disaster IDPs and returnees in water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and food, non-food items, health and nutrition assistance.

With almost \$17 billion spent on development programs in Afghanistan since 2002, USAID provides the largest bilateral civilian assistance program to Afghanistan. USAID partners with the government and people of Afghanistan to ensure economic growth led by the country's private sector, to establish a democratic and capable state governed by the rule of law, and to provide basic health and education services for all Afghans. (PR)

(10) Govt. Set

not remove Mangal as the governor until Thursday afternoon. Mangal's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the governor had initiated efforts at improving security and defeating the Daesh or Islamic State group besides preventing crimes and corruption.

He said for the time Operation Hamza had been launched to crush Daesh in Nangarhar and the operation was ongoing successfully. He said military bases would be established in areas cleared of Daesh.

He said the provincial government's campaigns against corruption, land grabbing and insecurity had threatened the interests of some mafia groups who wanted to defame the governor. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afs 1.7

signing process, more than 1.7 billion Afghanis were saved in 152 contracts for different projects last solar year," he said.

He said the projects were estimated to cost more than 8.2 billion Afghanis but the amount was reduced to 6.5 billion Afghanis after an in-depth review. Similalry, Durrani said a number of organizations working under the National Solidarity Program (NSP) of MRRD were fined 64 billion Afghanis due to their poor performance.

The Transparency International in its latest report on corruption has said the anti-corruption campaign is intensified in Afghanistan, but called for more efforts at eradicating the menace.

Afghanistan was ranked 169th, just ahead of Libya, Sudan and Yemen and perceived the world's seventh most corrupt nation in the IT report. (Pajhwok)

(12) Political

neighbours to move beyond pious statements to result-oriented discussions on key issues bedeviling Kabul-Islamabad ties.

"We have repeatedly heard that peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan and the enemy of Afghanistan is the enemy of Pakistan and vice versa. But in practice this has never been

demonstrated," the minister said.

He added the Afghan leadership stood firm in battling terrorists who were intent upon destabilising the region. President Ashraf Ghani had taken concrete steps over the past two years and a half for the restoration of peace and stability, he said.

A strong political will is needed to eradicate terrorism and restore peace, the minister said, highlighting what a stable and prosperous Afghanistan could offer to the region.

Afghanistan's geographical location could provide the region the best connectivity. Now this is up to the people and decision-makers how best they can use this strategic opportunity. He said: "33% of Afghanistan's natural resources have been mapped, the estimated worth of which is in trillions of dollars. In the next 15 years, Afghanistan will become the world's largest producer of copper and iron and one of the big players in the gold market.

"We have 14 of the 17 rare earth material. Our marble resources are enough to last for the coming 400 years," Wardak said, believing Afghanistan's water asset can be transformed into a powerhouse and surplus power could meet the demand of neighbours as well.

To him, another most important opportunity for bringing sustainable peace is the millions of Afghans who have lived in Pakistan for decades, studied there and gained a variety of skills.

Wardak said the Afghans and Pakistanis enjoyed many cultural similarities ranging from colour, race, language and culture, which could be used as strategic asset to foster brotherhood between the two nations.

He made clear Afghanistan did not want to become a battlefield for proxy wars; it desired to be a buffer. The country would like to become a model for cooperation, a platform for coming together and living in prosperity and dignity.

"Yes, it is doable. Nationally there may be limitations, but regionally there are opportunities which can be utilised to our mutual benefit...Let's commit to serving our people in need through sincere cooperation," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(13) Residents

not yet arrested any suspects. "We have had ten murder cases in Waisal Abad area (in Kabul). The people who have gathered here are from the PD7 and PD8," said Attaullah Faizani, a member of Kabul Provincial Council.

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers warned that they will have security officials summoned by the Attorney General's Office if the demands of protesters are not met.

"We will summon the relevant security officials to the relevant commission of parliament. We will send them to the Attorney General's Office if they neglect to do their duty or if they commit corruption," said Asif Sediqqi, second deputy speaker of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament).

Kabul Police Chief Hassan Shah Frogg confirmed recent incidents but said crime has dropped in the city but said progress had been made in one case.

"We told them that the murderer has escaped and has hidden in the mountains in Panjshir province. His arrest cannot be done in a short time. Police are following the case and he will be arrested in the near future," he said.

The protesters warned that the trust between residents and police leaders would be damaged if police fail to take action against criminals in the city. (Tolonews)

(14) 13 Civilians

the administrative chief for Qush Tepa district, said three more people were kidnapped by armed supporters of Qari Hekmatullah. The abducted people hail from Dasht-i-Laili

district.

Rahmatullah Hashar, the Darz Ab district chief, claimed Daesh rebels have abducted a farmer. He said there was no information about the man.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied his group's involvement in the abduction of civilians. He believed armed groups might have kidnapped the people. "We have talked to our local commander in this regard. He is unaware of the incident. The Taliban have nothing to do with the abduction of civilians," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(15) Govt. to

in the days since.

Riot police are stationed on all streets in the neighborhood, while riot control vehicles are patrolling the streets against possible escalations, reported Hurriyet Daily News.

In addition, Turkish police have evacuated about 300 Afghan and Syrian refugees who will be sent to migrant camps in different provinces, the newspaper stated.

According to the article, the initial brawl started when a group of Syrian and Afghan migrants reportedly started heckling women in the area. A fight broke out when locals reacted to the heckling. Sahin was killed in this brawl, stated the Hurriyet Daily News.

Meanwhile, according to MoFA, there are reports that several people from both sides were either killed or injured in the brawl. They did not however give any details nor reveal their identities.

This comes after video footage recently went viral on social media of a group of Turks attacking refugees with knives.

In the video, Afghans tell how their lives are being threatened in Turkey.

"This is a brutal attack. Afghans migrate to other countries for a better life, but they are not safe there," said a resident of Kabul, Burhan.

"The attack is against Islam and humanity. We cannot justify this," said another resident, Abdul Rahman.

Meanwhile, some Afghan lawmakers in parliament have also called on government to investigate the issue.

"The issue must be raised with the Turkish officials and their (migrants) rights and dignity must be protected," said MP Safiullah Hashimi.

In addition, the Afghan consulate general in Istanbul in a telephonic interview told TOLONews that police in Istanbul have arrested nearly 200 people in connection with the brawl.

"The identity of those arrested have not been confirmed so far. But majority of those live in the area are nationals of Pakistan, then the Syrians and after that the Afghans," said Afghan consulate general Abdul Malik Quraishi.

The Turkish embassy in Kabul has confirmed the death of a Turkish citizen during the brawl, but did not provide figures about casualties among the asylum seekers. (Tolonews)

(16) Kandahar to

from Central Asia to South Asia. Estimated to cost \$10 billion, the project will be completed by 2019. The pipeline will supply 33 billion cubic of natural gas, having short and long-term advantages for energy-starved Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(17) Herat PC

review petition. The provincial council head was accused of entering forcefully along with 20 of his armed supporters into the Herat attorney office and freeing a convict under investigation. (Pajhwok)

(18) Police Chief

elder in Ghazni, Abdul Razaq, asked people to cooperate with the government in enforcing the ban.

"Most of the attacks in the city are carried out with the help of motorcycles, so two persons on one bike should be banned," he said.

About three years back, the parliament approved a legislation

banning pillion riding in the country.

However, the ban is yet to be enforced in capital Kabul and a number of other provinces of the country. (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 Children

in the blast when they were walking on the hillside. There was no information that when the landmine as planted.

He added the slain children each were 12-year-old and the injured had been evacuated to Baba Ali hospital and their condition is said to be stable.

From January 1 to April 30 UN-AMA preliminarily recorded 987 child casualties (283 deaths and 704 injured) showing 21 per cent increase in child deaths compared to the same period in 2016. (Pajhwok)

(20) Weapons

Meanwhile, the school principle said they had rented two stories of the three-storey building for the school and school officials had nothing to do with the case.

"The person who is known as Nawab Khan has no relations with the school," said school principle Shabir Ahmad Bashiri.

Khudaidad was one of Kabul's most notorious gang leaders who was executed by government three years ago after being found guilty on charges of murder, kidnapping and other criminal offenses.

Kabul police have however arrested the building owner and five others in connection with the weapons haul.

According to police Tanai has confessed that the weapons and three vehicles without number plates belonged to him, however he rejected all allegations that he had been linked to Khudaidad in the past.

"Nawab Khan Tanai is my brother. My father name is Mohammad Zahir. The school was operating here for years before we moved

our office here. In the past, the school had only one gate, but when we transferred our office here, the school gate was also changed, we also changed our gate, we do not know Rais Khudaidad," said Sawab Khan Tanai, brother of Nawab Khan Tanai, the owner of the building.

Last week the Afghan security forces raided the building where they discovered 16 different types of weapons including hand grenades, rocket launchers, explosive devices, military uniforms and three cars without number plates. (Tolonews)

(21) 1 Killed, 12

the first blast was of low intensity but the second blast was powerful that shattered gates of nearby shops.

After the second blast, he said, people started running in all directions to reach safety.

There has been no word from the Taliban about the twin bombings. (Pajhwok)

(22) Political Tensions

who were also former NATO officials. Turkey claimed that these generals had a direct hand in the failed coup attempt in July 2016. But Germany accepted the asylum by the Turkish officers for fear that they would not receive a fair trial in Turkey.

Turkey subsequently refused German members of parliament access to German staff at a military facility on Monday. The refusal prompted German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her CDU party to seriously consider the possibility of moving the army from Incirlik airbase in Turkey. (Xinhua)

(23) Germany Asks

with a formal "letter of request" to be issued in coming months. Germany's interest in the F-35 - the Pentagon's most advanced warplane and its costliest procurement program - may surprise some given that it is part of the four-nation consortium that developed the fourth-generation Eurofighter Typhoon, which continues to compete for new orders. The Eurofighter is built by Airbus as well as Britain's BAE Systems and Leonardo of Italy. (Reuters)