

**(1) Afghanistan ...**

be offered an amnesty, similar to that offered in 2007 to warlords accused of war crimes as well as a release of prisoners held by Afghan authorities.

The government would also work to have the group removed from a U.N. black list.

The group, which for years had close ties with Pakistan, would not join the government but would be recognised as a political party and be involved in major political decisions.

In 2003, the U.S. State Department included Hekmatyar on its terrorist list, accusing him of participating in and supporting attacks by al Qaeda and the Taliban.

His group was most recently blamed for a 2013 attack in Kabul, in which two U.S. soldiers and four U.S. civilian contractors as well as eight Afghans were killed. (Reuters)

**(2) Four-Nation ...**

declined to send a delegation from Kabul for the new talks, saying its ambassador in Islamabad would represent the government until Pakistan lives up to promises to crack down on Afghan Taliban sheltering on its soil.

The Quadrilateral Coordination Group, made up of officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China, have been engaged in efforts to facilitate direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

The Taliban, who now control or contest more territory than at any time since they were ousted by a U.S.-led intervention in 2001, have attended none of the group's meetings.

A spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Afghanistan would not be sending a delegation from Kabul.

"The Afghan delegation that participated from Afghanistan will not participate until Pakistan fulfills its promises made during previous meetings," Dawa Khan Menapal said.

Pakistan had expressed confidence it could pressure Taliban representatives to return to the negotiating table by March, but the insurgents released a statement in late February refusing to join.

Ghani angrily demanded that Pakistan use force to expel Taliban and allied insurgents from its territory last month after a big truck bomb killed 64 people in Kabul. (Reuters)

**(3) China, Afghanistan ...**

Premier Li Keqiang. Both sides undertook to firmly support each other on state sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and stressed on mutual respect and cooperation, with special emphasis on mutual understanding and support in areas of common interest, the joint statement said.

The Afghan side reaffirmed its commitment to the one China policy and firm support for China's positions on issues related to Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang and stated that Afghanistan would not allow its territory to be used by any forces for any separatist activities against China.

The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for Afghanistan's support on issues concerning China's core interests and stated that China would respect and support the Afghan people's national struggle for peace, stability and economic prosperity, and their choice of development path in line with their national conditions. The Chinese side introduced the latest developments in the South China Sea and China's position. The two sides call on the countries concerned to resolve territory and maritime disputes and differences through friendly consultations and negotiations in accordance with bilateral agreements and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). Both sides stressed that the right to settle disputes by the means of their own choice by the sovereign states and the State Parties of UNCLOS should be respected, the joint statement said.

The Chinese side firmly supports the Afghan national unity government in its governance and realization of political, economic and security transformation in Afghanistan. The Chinese side firmly supports the broad-based and inclusive peace and reconciliation process which is "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" and hopes to see early realization of lasting peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, towards which it will render all possible moral and practical assistance and support.

Under bilateral and multilateral mechanisms like the Quadrilateral Coordination Group, the Chinese side will support Afghanistan and play its constructive role and en-

courage the international community and the countries in the region for their full cooperation to create favorable conditions for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Chinese side calls on all Afghan armed opposition groups to participate in the reconciliation process with Afghan Government, in order to put an end to the ongoing violence and usher in lasting peace in the country. The Afghan side appreciates and welcomes the constructive role of China in Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation efforts.

According to the joint statement, in 2016, the Chinese government will provide 500 million yuan of aid gratis to the Afghan government for the mutually agreed projects. China will implement the Kabul University main building and auditorium project and provide Afghanistan with approximately 50 million yuan of non-emergency humanitarian aid in kind. China will also support Afghanistan in capacity building and continue to provide training programs for Afghan professionals in various fields in line with the needs of Afghanistan.

The two sides agreed to expand and deepen bilateral commercial and investment cooperation. The Chinese side will encourage and support capable Chinese enterprises to invest in Afghanistan and carry out information, communications and other infrastructure projects. The Afghan side will provide necessary facilitation for Chinese enterprises making investment in Afghanistan and ensure the safety of the relevant projects and personnel in accordance with laws and regulations of Afghanistan.

The competent authorities of the two sides will cooperate and step up work to complete the access protocol for Afghan saffron, the access assessment for pine nuts, pomegranate and realize the export of these products to China at an early date, and work on facilitating the export of other fresh and dry fruits to China in the future.

China will continue to strongly support Afghanistan's efforts in regional cooperation and integration in line with its position as a natural land bridge and roundabout in the Heart of Asia region. China welcomes the active participation of Afghanistan in the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, proposed by China.

Both sides agreed to strengthen information and communications connectivity, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in cultural and educational fields.

The two sides agreed to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the security field. The Afghan side reaffirmed its strong support to China in combating the "the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement" and undermining groups supporting its activities, and pledged to take concrete measures to ensure the security of Chinese institutions and nationals in Afghanistan.

Both sides will strengthen coordination and cooperation under international and regional mechanisms, maintain communication and coordinate their positions on major international and regional issues, and enhance communication and coordination under multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations.

The Chinese side supports the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in playing a positive role in peace and development of Afghanistan. Afghanistan expressed its hope to become a formal member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank at an early date, which China values and welcomes. (Xinhua)

**(4) Zakhilwal Meets...**

from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China, has been engaged in efforts to facilitate direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

The Afghan government has said its ambassador in Islamabad would represent the country in the latest talks and refused to send its delegation until Pakistan lives up to its promises of crackdown on Taliban militants on its soil.

But Pakistan says the use of force against Afghan Taliban is unviable until all peaceful options are exhausted.

Zakhilwal also discussed other important subjects with Daniel F. Feldman, the statement said, without giving further details.

A day earlier, Zakhilwal said he would lead the Afghan delegation in the latest four-way talks and would insist on implementation of the agreed roadmap for peace.

He had said the roadmap approved in the group's meeting in February had not been implemented.

The four-nation group was created after the Heart of Asia conference in December 2015 on Afghanistan and since then the group had held four

meetings in Islamabad and Kabul. The last meeting of the group that took place in Kabul in March had decided that Pakistan would bring the Taliban to the negotiating table for direct talks with the Afghan government and would take action against irreconcilable elements. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Don't Forget...**

together to map out a new humanitarian approach that is more inclusive and more representative of the needs and challenges of millions of people today

With the humanitarian system being stretched across the globe, crises in South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and the Central African Republic and the Ebola crisis, Afghanistan must not be forgotten, a statement from the agency stressed.

Based on consultations with humanitarian actors across the country, ACBAR urged WHS to support Afghan institutions, NGOs and local communities' capacity development through increased funding. Local actors be empowered to participate in efforts to localise humanitarian action and partner with humanitarian organisations.

WHS was asked to reaffirm commitment to respect and promote the humanitarian principles, impartiality and independence, as well as International Humanitarian Law. Similarly, Afghanistan was urged to commit to engaging with stakeholders from different sides of the conflict so as to ensure respect for and understanding of International Humanitarian Law.

The planned assembly was asked to prioritise and fund need-based humanitarian programmes that target vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, and persons with disabilities. (Pajhwok)

**(6) President ...**

During his first trip to Iran in April last year, President Ghani signed a number of agreements on bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation which included other regional countries like India, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan including a trilateral deal on development of Chabahar Port by the Gulf of Oman.

Prime Minister Modi will visit Tehran on May 22 on a two-day official visit at the invitation of President Hassan Rouhani.

He will discuss issues of mutual interests with Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Rouhani during his two-day stay in Tehran.

Regional cooperation, infrastructure, investment in the energy sector, enhancement of mutual trade and contribution to the regional peace and security are the areas of mutual cooperation.

He will sign several memoranda of understanding in various fields such as investment in Chabahar, energy, Iran-India-Afghanistan trilateral corridor and cultural exchanges. (IRNA)

**(7) NATO Alliance ...**

said that the alliance expect to continue to support the financial sustenance of the Afghan security forces, including through 2020 and to develop a long-term strong political partnership and practical cooperation with Afghanistan.

The move comes as NATO and its partners had last Wednesday reaffirmed commitment to support financial sustenance of the Afghan National Security Forces at plenary meeting of the Afghan National Army Trust Fund Board.

NATO and Resolute Support Partner Foreign Ministers last December had agreed to work towards national decisions to be announced at, or prior to, the Warsaw Summit confirming financial commitments to support the Afghan security forces until 2020. (ANI)

**(8) Afghanistan ...**

was taken following a comprehensive discussion regarding the issue. The relevant authorities were instructed to implement the strategy in the tactical level after approving the strategy in principle.

The defense and security ministers also presented their reports regarding the security situation of Helmand, Uruzgan, Kunduz, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Faryab and Kunar provinces.

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) personnel were hailed for their bravery, sensitivity, and competence in fight against the enemy forces.

The National Security Council issued necessary instructions to the security institutions to take necessary measures to prevent outbreak of security threats in the country.

The strategy to fight the enemy moles has been approved in principle amid concerns that the enemy forces are attempting to infiltrate among the security forces.

Earlier, the newly-nominated Intelligence Chief, Masoom Stanikzai, vowed to take all necessary measures to fight against the conspiracies of the enemies of the country. (KP)

**(9) US Welcomes ...**

of such a political dialogue to end the violence in Afghanistan.

At a regular briefing at the US State Department, spokesman John Kirby said the United States supports an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned process for a negotiated resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan.

"All relevant groups, including Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, should be a part of such a political dialogue so that Afghans can talk directly to other Afghans about the future of their country," he said and added that the United States welcomes political negotiations among the Afghan government, the Afghan High Peace Council and representatives of HIG. (APP)

**(10) Obama Admin ...**

we note that he urged Congress to approve the additional visa slots that we had asked for, so in that regard, we certainly welcome his support..." Kirby concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 21 Schoolgirls ...**

In the meantime, officials at the education department said that they will take precautions in all schools to prevent such incidents from happening again. (Tolonews)

**(12) Remaining ...**

southern parts of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan," said Mohammad Fahim Rahimi, the museum's curator. The museum dates back to 1919 but was moved to its current location in 1932.

Sadly, the civil wars took a heavy toll on the museums treasures but after the Soviet Union's troops were ousted from Afghanistan, the then government saved what they could, including the priceless Bakhtari treasure, and stored the relics in secure locations.

"We registered and listed very important relics of different eras, by considering the size of the item and the capacity of the [secure] place and then the relics were taken to secure places under tight security measures," said Omara Khan Masoudi, former head of the museum. The Bakhtari treasure, along with other items, have meanwhile gone on display over the years in more than 10 countries around the world. The exhibitions have earned Afghanistan 176 million Afghanis since 2007. (Tolonews)

**(13) 78 Baghlan ...**

Surkh Kotal locality had fallen into their hands and scores of security men had been killed or wounded. Meanwhile, relatives of security officials trapped in Tapa-i-German locality, said they had no information about their family members.

Mohammad Karim, relative of a soldier, said two of his cousins in Afghan Local Police ranks were under Taliban's siege. They claimed two policemen were killed and as many wounded in a Taliban attack early in the morning. (Pajhwok)

(14) Afghan Forces ministry stated, adding that 10 Afghan servicemen lost their lives during the operation.

Afghanistan is in a state of political and social turmoil, with Taliban insurgents and other extremist factions such as Islamic State, which is outlawed in Russia and many other countries, taking advantage of the instability in the country. (sputniknews)

**(15) ALP Commander...**

area to the greater extent. As usual, Taliban took responsibility for the attack.

Top ALP commander killing happened at times when security forces headed by Governor Atta Mohammad Noor launched clearing operations in some districts of the province against the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

**(16) 27 Taliban, ...**

others wounded during the clash. He said a local police member was also killed and another two wounded during the firefight. Civilians stayed unharmed.

Elsewhere, 15 Islamic State or Daesh militants and three Taliban fighters were killed during a clash between the two rival groups in the Achin district, according to Khogyani.

He said another six Daesh militants and five Taliban gunmen were wounded during the clash. The Taliban also captured alive two Daesh fighters.

Nangarhar police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal confirmed the clash and the casualties in the Khogyani clash and said a

child was also wounded during the crossfire.

Shabir Barakzai, a resident of Khogyani district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that dozens of armed militants stormed security posts last night. "We don't have information about casualties, but we could hear gunfire until late night."

The Taliban have so far said nothing about these incidents. (Pajhwok)

**(17) US Congressman ...**

In the opinion piece published in the Washington Times, he claimed knowing Gen. Dostum for two decades. It was in US interest having the battle-tested leader on its side, believed the lawmaker, who also served as a speech writer for President Ronald Reagan

The visa refusal had insulted the VP and undermined those struggling against a terrorist insurgency in Afghanistan, Rohrabachersaid, lamenting the US decision to leave the beleaguered country to the tender mercies of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"After Sept. 11, 2001, those of us who knew Gen. Dostum advocated that he and four other ethnic leaders of his Northern Alliance begin the task of driving the Taliban and Al Qaeda out of Afghanistan," he added.

It was the Uzbek commander and a few other Afghan leaders who did the fighting and carried the day. When Kabul was seized from Taliban, only 200 US troops were in the war-devastated country, he recalled.

But after the Taliban's ouster, the State Department bungled what was an opportunity to establish a lasting political and economic structure based on federalism, decentralization and a return to moderation and the monarchy, according to the legislator.

"Instead, our government insisted Hamid Karzai be installed in power. His would be the most centralized government they could imagine or desire. Not only did Karzai have no political base, but he was surrounded by corrupt, self-serving minions."

The Congressman branded Karzai's term in office as a dramatic failure and a lost opportunity. Because the ex-president made things worse, not better, placing America in greater danger from radical terrorists. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Insurgents ...**

information about their family members.

Mohammad Karim, relative of a soldier, said two of his cousins were in Afghan Local Police ranks were under Taliban's siege. They claimed two policemen were killed and as many wounded in a Taliban attack early in the morning.

Governor Abdul Sattar Barez, meanwhile, accused the militants of hiding in civilian houses. He said due to fear of civilian casualties, security officials could not move quickly against the fighters. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Kerry Meets...**

not believe the time is yet ripe to resume a direct dialogue between the sides, preferring instead to lobby both to make confidence building measures to reduce violence and calm tensions. (AFP)

**(20) UNHCR ...**

Left Outside campaign aims to raise funds from the private sector to build or improve shelter for 2 million refugees by 2018.

UNHCR said it purchases 70,000 tents and more than 2 million tarpaulins every year, but as the agency continues to face high levels of shelter needs and with limited funding available, operations often face the difficult decision to prioritize emergency shelter for the maximum number of people of concern, over an investment in more durable and sustainable solutions. (Xinhua)

**(21) EU Warns ...**

The Commission, which enforces the EU's treaties, could then recommend ways that Poland fix the problem and set a deadline. It could even impose sanctions. The whole process could lead to Poland losing its EU voting rights.

Poland has come under strong international criticism since the conservative Law and Justice took power in November and moved to exert its influence over the Constitutional Tribunal and public broadcasters. Critics say both moves undermine the tenets of Western democracy. But while Poland's ruling party and opposition leaders are holding meetings this week trying to find a solution, Deputy Foreign Minister Konrad Szymanski said Poland needs "much more time" to solve the crisis and no breakthrough should be expected by Monday.

He said he does not see the warning as an ultimatum, adding that War-

saw is in constant "friendly" discussion with the Commission. (AP)

**(22) Turkey Party ...**

Erdogan will then give the new AKP leader the mandate to serve as prime minister early next week, after which a new cabinet will be announced.

Yildirim, 60, is seen as one of Erdogan's closest longtime confidants, and has served an almost unbroken stint from 2002-2013 and again from 2015 as transport minister.

According to Turkish media reports, Yildirim's name emerged as the overwhelming favourite in meetings this week of regional AKP officials. (AFP)

**(23) Queen Elizabeth...**

by building a million new homes. To tackle poverty and the causes of deprivation, including family instability, addiction and debt, new indicators for measuring life chances are to be introduced.

Continuing the theme of social and life chance reforms, the Queen said more people will be given the opportunity to further their education with the establishment of new universities.

Legislation will be introduced, the Queen said, to prevent radicalization, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration. (Xinhua)

**(24) Greece ...**

sea crossings into Greece.

Dozens of migrants, including small children, have been camping in a few dozen tents on a littered field by Hungary's border fence, braving rain and cold nights determined to pursue their dream of a better future in the EU. (AP)

**(25) Trump 'Says ...**

over China. China can solve that problem with one meeting or one phone call."

Asked how that could unfold, Trump said: "Because they have tremendous power over North Korea."

Reminded that North Korea has nukes, Trump replied: "I know that. So does China, by the way."

The Republican also called for a renegotiation of the Paris climate accord, saying he is "not a big fan," and voiced disapproval of Russian President Vladimir Putin's moves in eastern Ukraine, the report said.

The Paris deal stipulates agreed carbon emissions reductions by more than 170 countries. He said he would want to renegotiate the deal because it treats the United States unfairly and gives favorable treatment to countries such as China. (AFP)

**(26) Polish PM ...**

Hillary's U.S. presidential campaign, Clinton said Hungary and Poland "would not be free" if not for the United States, but "have now decided this democracy is too much trouble."

"They want (Russian President Vladimir) Putin-like leadership. Just give me an authoritarian dictatorship and keep the foreigners out," he said.

"Sound familiar?" Clinton asked, in apparent reference to campaign statements by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

A comparison to Putin is especially shocking in Poland, which is very distrustful and critical of his policies.

Clinton was also referring to Warsaw and Budapest protesting European Union plans to redistribute some of the tens of thousands of refugees flooding into Europe and refusing to take in some of them.

The head of Poland's conservative ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, said Clinton is misinformed. (AP)

**(27) Kremlin ...**

unclean competition in the U.S. or used the U.S. banking system to conduct a doping program, the newspaper said.

This report followed an interview by the newspaper of Russian anti-doping laboratory's former head, who claimed at least 15 Russian medal winners at Sochi Winter Olympics were part of a state-run doping program designed to enhance their performance. (Xinhua)

**(28) Netanyahu...**

currently assumed by Netanyahu in a temporary capacity on top of his role as premier. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Tuesday urged Israel and Palestinians to take historic steps to achieve peace, comments which some analysts interpreted as an attempt to boost the idea of Herzog joining the government. If a national unity government is formed Netanyahu and Herzog could visit Egypt to launch a new peace initiative under the auspices of the Egyptian president, the Jerusalem Post cited anonymous officials from both parties as saying. (AFP)