

(1) Ghani Says...

people in 19th and first half of 20th century in Eastern and Western Europe," said Ghani. He said: "The specter of violence, unfortunately, haunts our lives.

"More Afghans than Palestinians have died in the past week. Yet, I felt compelled to attend this extraordinary summit to express the empathy and sympathy of my fellow citizens with the Palestinian people. Simply put, the question of Palestine is a question for the Arab world, the Muslim world and the world at large.

"Failure to address it has robbed several generations of stability and prosperity. Continual failure to address it could deprive us of the opportunity to replace the unfolding clash of civilizations with a genuine dialogue of civilizations.

He said the established rules of warfare, distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants, have given way to practicing of unrestricted warfare.

He also stated that the "scale, scope and constancy of violence has numbed the collective conscience, producing indifference in the face of massive information flow.

Ghani said: "Uncertainty regarding the future and the direction of the world has become a dominant feature of our time.

"Clearly, we do face a complex range of interrelated problems and a difficult global context. Owing the future, however, requires drawing lessons from the past and utilizing the present to overcome the past.

He went then suggested discussions need to be held and suggested that a framework for political stability through orderly change needs to be created.

He also said there was a need to create mechanisms for state-to-state cooperation among neighboring states where temptations for engaging in proxy wars and building spheres of influence have been the drivers of conflict; Ghani also said there was a need to draw on successful examples of regional cooperation on building the capabilities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as a genuine platform for discussion of collective challenges and a mechanism for peace building among member states.

He said there was the need to address the question of Palestine and enduring solutions to the Israeli-Arab conflict through a sustained effort and to develop a narrative for explaining Islam as a civilization and culture to younger generations of Muslim men and women.

"We live in an open historical moment, where assumptions of the past can no longer guide us. Open moments are rare and therefore, full of opportunity and danger.

"Leadership and management make all the difference in such moments. I pray that we rise to overcome our collective challenge.

"The people of Palestine, whose suffering has brought us here, want more than our sympathy. They want our support to break the vicious circle that has robbed them of leading dignified lives. I trust that we translate our collective pain into collective action," he said.

The summit came just days after Israeli forces killed at least 58 Palestinians in bloody clashes at the Gaza border on Monday in the deadliest day there since the 2014 war.

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed this week that at least

58 Palestinians died and 2,700 people wounded during protests over the Trump administration's controversial relocation of the Embassy from Tel Aviv.

Most of the dead were killed by Israeli fire near the border. (Tolo news)

(2) Ajristan District in...

governor Mohammad Aman Hamim meanwhile said that preparations have been taken to deploy commando forces to the district.

Taliban confirmed the clashes and claimed that 34 army and police soldiers have been killed in the clashes.

Hamim did not give information about the casualties but said that due to the district being so remote, there were no further details.

This comes after twenty two security force members were killed in heavy clashes with the Taliban in two districts of central Ghazni province, members of the provincial council confirmed on Wednesday.

In addition, five other security force members were wounded. The clashes started on Tuesday night after dozens of Taliban insurgents attacked Zana Khan and Jaghato districts of the province, a member of the provincial council Hussain Reza Yousufi said.

He claimed that 13 security forces, mostly police, were killed in Zana Khan and nine police were killed in Jaghato, adding that "heavy clashes are still ongoing in the district since last night and the Taliban insurgents have also suffered heavy casualties."

The Taliban has also confirmed the clashes with the government forces in the districts.

Yousufi said that the situation is "worrying".

The Ghazni attack came a day after nearly 2,000 Taliban insurgents stormed western Farah province's capital city early Tuesday.

The insurgents were pushed back early Wednesday after the arrival of reinforcement troops, according to the provincial governor, Basir Salangi.

About 300 insurgents were killed in the day-long attack, Salangi said, adding that "15 army soldiers, 10 policemen and five civilians were killed in the clashes." (Tolo news)

(3) Farah's War...

and work was started on Bakhsh Abad Dam (in the west zone)." He said heavy clashes are ongoing in 15 provinces and that government forces are sacrificing their lives every day.

"War in Afghanistan has big dimensions. This is not the Afghanistan people's war only. There are over 20 terrorist groups in the region and I want to say bluntly that they are supported by two neighbors of ours with all resources. They have other regional partners too," the minister stated.

Representatives of Farah including MPs and provincial council members said they want serious security measures enforced and a strengthened intelligence process for the province in order to prevent militant attacks.

An MP from the province, Belqis Roshan, claimed that almost all districts in Farah have been captured by the Taliban and that the group will attack the city once the reinforcement forces return to Kabul.

At the same event, Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak said government forces continue their efforts to push militants back in 15 provinces in the country. Barmak said considerable chang-

es will occur in the police within the next two weeks.

He added that officials who have been negligent in Farah will be punished.

"All police force members who remained in Farah and fought against militants will be awarded higher ranks. I have approved money for them too," Barmak said.

Meanwhile, the head of the National Directorate of Security called on the people to unite against terrorism.

"This war is a war of interests," Stanekzai said. "Afghanistan is the victim of this war."

At the same event, the Resolute Support and US Forces Commander Gen. John Nicholson praised the Afghan forces for their bravery against the Taliban in the Farah war.

"Farah did not fall and Farah will never fall. To the people of Farah, I tell you again we are with you and we are with all people of Afghanistan and we will stay with you until we bring this war to a peaceful conclusion," he said.

Nicholson called on the Taliban to accept President Ashraf Ghani's peace offer. (Tolo news)

(4) Indonesia...

a beneficial result in the years to come," said Aryadi.

Some economists meanwhile asked government to create the basis for joint ventures with Indonesia in order to promote Islamic banking in Afghanistan.

Economists said considering the capabilities of Indonesia and Malaysia, in terms of global Islamic banking, the assistance of these countries was vital in the development of Afghanistan's Islamic banking sector.

"If the National Unity Government promotes Islamic banking in the country and with joint investments with Indonesia in this sector provides the ground for the establishment of joint Islamic banks in the country, this can improve the banking system of the country," said Sayed Masoud a university lecturer.

Economic experts said that by expanding standard Islamic banking services in the country, a large number of Afghans will invest in various sectors. (Tolo news)

(5) Floods Claim...

Northern parts of the country are experiencing torrential rains at a time when according to UNICEF, the extremely dry weather has affected 22 provinces across Afghanistan and threatens to negatively impact the lives of a million people, with an additional 2 million who could feel its effects over the coming months. (AA)

(6) Ghani and...

stadium at around 11:45 pm local time, leaving at least eight dead and forty five others wounded.

At least eight of the wounded individuals were discharged from the hospital after receiving treatment while the remaining 37 others are still receiving treatment. No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility behind the deadly bombings. (Tolo news)

(7) MoIC Rejects...

the 3 remaining. Still Afghanistan receive many requests from Chinese museums and other museums around the world to display this exhibition. This will depend to the approval of Cabinet Members and decisions at the Ministry of Information and Culture," the statement added. According to ministry, the exhibition had been travelling to many safe countries around the world since 2006, so Afghanistan could

protect it in those countries, adding there is only 231 piece of objects in Afghanistan Treasures Exhibition, while the Ministry and in particular the National Museum of Afghanistan currently preserve more than 70 thousand precious objects which is very important and there is no concern their safety and security. "so, the protection of the 231 objects is a very easy task for us." The ministry went on saying that it was quite normal and task of museums around the world to exchange exhibitions and Afghanistan doing the same through displaying its treasures. "Currently the Ministry of Information and Culture are working on another exhibition from our treasures to display in China and other countries, so it doesn't mean we need shelter for this object." MoIC insists the exhibition was showing the goodwill of people of Afghanistan to the people of China and the exhibition was a gift for the people of China. "Through this exhibition, we aim to strengthen the cultural relation between two countries and we hope that the cultural relation and cooperation between two countries further bolstered." (BNA)

(8) 3 Police...

official said Saturday.

"Taliban militants launched an offensive from four sides and surrounded Daychopan district since early Thursday, triggering clashes which caused three police personnel killed and two others wounded," Ata Jan Haqbayan, chairman of provincial Council, told Xinhua.

He said that the clashes were still ongoing as of Saturday morning and if the government did not dispatch reinforcing troops to Daychopan, the Taliban may overrun the district in northern of the provincial capital.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been on the rampage since the beginning of 2015 when the Afghan security forces assumed full responsibilities of security from the United States and NATO troops.

The militants also intensified attacks against security forces and staged several coordinated attacks against Afghan cities and districts after they launched a yearly rebel offensive on April 25. (Xinhua)

(9) India Test...

of Kohli from the match, emphasizing that all Indian players have similar capabilities as those of Kohli. (KP)

(10) Seven Registration...

Afghanistan have registered their names to vote ahead of the October elections.

Election observers and monitoring groups last week welcomed the end to tension between members of the IEC and its chief over the stamping of copies of identity cards, saying the four IEC commissioners who opposed the plan in fact had legitimate concerns.

IEC announced on Wednesday that it has scrapped the decision to stamp copies of voter identity cards. The commission said in a statement that it has decided to stamp original identity cards of voters to allow them to cast their votes in the coming elections in the country.

To ensure safety of voters, the commission asks voters to visit a population registration office and get an original copy of their ID cards so that it can be stamped at voter registration centers, a statement sent to TOLONews by an IEC member read. (Tolo news)

China, Portugal Important Partners in Building Belt and Road

LISBON - Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday said China and Portugal agree to work as important cooperation partners in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative.

Wang made the remarks after meeting with Portugal's Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva during an official visit here.

China appreciates Portugal's consistent support for the Initiative and is willing to discuss and sign intergovernmental cooperation agreement on it to facilitate its alignment with Portugal's development strategies, he told a joint press conference.

Making Portugal a key hub on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road will bring new prospects and stimulus to the development of bilateral ties, Wang said, adding that China attaches great importance to a bilateral "blue partnership" proposed by Portugal, and believes that combining this with building the Belt and Road will boost collaboration in the marine, cultural and other areas.

Wang said the two countries will continue to promote investment and trade cooperation. Beijing encourages Chinese enterprises to increase investment in Portugal and welcomes Portuguese companies to do business in China, he said. Detailing their complementary advantages, China is willing to work with Portugal on third-party cooperation in regions including Africa and Latin America.

Meanwhile, China is willing to expand the import of agricultural products from Portugal, while exploring cooperation in areas such as energy and finance, the Chinese foreign minister said.

The year 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties. Wang said China and Portugal agree to take the opportunity to expand cooperation and lift the development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level.

He said the two sides will increase exchanges and communication at various levels in order to boost mutual trust and consolidate the political basis for pushing forward bilateral relations.

Given more uncertainties and destabilizing factors as well as a rise in protectionism in the world, China and Portugal will enhance strategic coordination in a joint effort to maintain rules-based multilateral trade system and build a more inclusive global economy, Wang said.

During the visit, Wang also met with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Lisbon. (Xinhua)

U.S. Complicates Middle East Situation: Merkel Tells Putin

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday that the Middle East situation had been complicated by the United States' withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal.

According to a statement issued by the German federal government, Merkel made the remarks during her meeting with Putin in Russia's Black Sea city of Sochi. Merkel told Putin that Germany, like the rest of Europe, did not want to leave the agreement and wanted to continue to support it. With regard to the Iranian nuclear program, the agreement gives "more security, more control and, above all, more transparency". But there are also topics "that have to be talked about with Iran", Merkel said, referring to the concerns of the Iranian ballistic missile program, and the question of how to proceed after the expiration of each element of the nuclear agreement. (Xinhua)